central VOICE

FREE MARCH/APRIL 2008

Central Voice Exclusive:

RuPaul: 'a Love of Life'

By Frank Pizzoli

"Hi, it's Ru," says the voice from LA on the telephone. She takes her own calls. "I just made my first cup of coffee this morning, it smells so good." Ru is that much at peace with herself these days, not an easy claim for performers often burnt from the glare of publicity.

Ru's also still as funny as you can imagine. Her new movie "Starrbooty," inspired partly by John Waters (at Whitaker Center May 23, see Page 17), has old fans screaming with laughter and younger fans discovering her many talents. The film, as one fan said "mixes cheese sleaze of 1970s media culture and then tops it off with dirtied glamour drag." Another fan is already memorializing a line from the movie: "They walk in with a gift certificate and are carried out with a death certificate!"

RuPaul appears May 2 at York's Club XS as headliner for the 2nd Annual Black & White Benefit. "We're building on last year's success. We'll have the best party of the year – RuPaul plus lots of local talent," says Charles Oswald, club manager and event guru.

The event benefits York County's Caring Together and The AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania which funds multiple AIDS organizations in the region. By partnering with The AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania, a community partnership of the National AIDS Fund, Black & White will receive matching dollars for their contribution to the Fund. "This is a win-win all around. For every $2 Black & White donates, we can match with another $1 from the National AIDS Fund," explains Janice Black, CEO of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, the Fund's local convener.

More RuPaul on page 26>

Photo by Mike Ruiz

United Way Commits to the Latino Community

To follow through on its commitment to study the needs and assets of the Latino community before making long term funding decisions, United Way of the Capital Region (UWCR) recently released the findings of its Latino Community Needs and Assets Assessment Project.

The study, the first of its kind to be completed in the Capital Region, began last year under the direction of UWCR's Latino Community Task Force.

> The majority of responders expressed a strong belief in the power of faith and religion.

UWCR created the task force following the closing of the Mount Pleasant Hispanic American Center. In March of 2006, the Board of Directors of UWCR voted to discontinue funding three programs provided by the center as a result of the agency's continued inability to comply with United Way reporting and service delivery standards. To ensure services continued during the study process, the UWCR board awarded $125,000 in one-time grants to 10 organizations serving the Latino community.

"The local Latino community has grown by

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FROM ROBERT HOOBLER, EXIT PLATINUM PLUS REALTY, BROKER/OWNER

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FROM GREG ALLEN, REMAX REALTY PROFFESIONALS, REALTOR

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FROM YOLANDA ROTHENBERGER, CENTURY 21 PISCIONERI, REALTOR

"Russel and Jerry make the process run smoothly every time. When issues arise, they always handle them, and make it look easy. The first time homebuyers that I have dealt with love working with Russel and Jerry because they are always willing to take the time needed to not only explain the process, but also to make sure that the loan they are putting together is the one that best suits each customer's individual needs. Russel and Jerry, thank you for making my job easier and taking excellent care of my customers."

Parade Announces Grand Marshal Candidates

By Mark Smith

Central PA Pride Festival will honor local community leaders and heroes as part of PrideFest Unity Parade. The parade committee has nominated six finalists for Grand Marshal of the 2008 PrideFest Unity Parade. Finalists represent local individuals active in the community through leadership and volunteer roles. "This year's nominees are great role models for the glbt community," says Donald Anklam, Parade Committee chair.

2008 PrideFest Unity Parade Grand Marshal nominees are Stephen A. Glassman, David Payne, Rev. Eva O'Diam, Judy Chambers, Marlene Kanuck and Greg King. Each of these individuals has spent considerable time working in the glbt community and promoting glbt equality to the larger mid state area.

The committee will place ballot boxes at local bars, churches, and glbt business and organizations. Donations also can be made to the Central PA Pride Festival in support of a candidate by sending a check to PrideFest Unity Parade 916 Manor Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17113. When sending checks, be sure to note which candidate you would like your donation to support. The contest ends April 21 and the winner will be announced at the Dine Out with Pride event to be held in May.

Stephen A. Glassman is chairperson of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, a position he was appointed to in June of 2003 by Governor Edward Rendell. He is the first openly gay individual ever to receive a statewide gubernatorial appointment subject to Senate confirmation. Prior to coming to Pennsylvania, Glassman was the first openly gay political appointee in Baltimore, MD where he served for five years as Civic Design Commissioner under Mayor Kurt Schmoke.

Glassman has served with the ACLU, The Human Rights Campaign, The LGBT Community Center of Baltimore, The Names Project, and Yale University LGBT Study Center. He is past president of Common Roads and is founder of the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition, the largest group in the state working to achieve equal rights legislation on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. He has appeared with Martha Stewart on CBS This Morning, and on an episode of "Frasier" entitled "The Doctor is Out."

Judy Chambers is editor and publisher of the Lavender Letter, a publication that has been serving the lesbian community for the last eight years. Judy has a long history of being active in the community, having served in the leadership of Pride and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg for many years. In 2003 she served as Pride Festival chair. Chambers was also the co-chair of BAGAL (Business Association of Gays and Lesbians) for four years. Under her leadership the organization has moved into the future becoming the Central PA Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, affiliated with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. She was co-chair

Continued on page 30>

Health Care Needs Discussed by New LGBT Center Coalition

Ever not tell a doctor the real story during an office visit? Afraid disclosing your sexuality will lead to judgment and ridicule? You're not alone.

EGAL (Equality for Gays & Lesbians) of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), recently joined The Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, a NYC-based foundation, for a conference call discussion entitled "Health Issues Affecting LGBTQ Communities." Representatives of other local glbt organizations sat in on the call.

"Health issues are of paramount concern to our community" says Ben Dunlap, EGAL chairman. The group has been instrumental in appointing the initial governing board of directors of The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Center Coalition.

Panelists stressed that glbt people have specific health needs that may be unknown, overlooked or ignored by health care professionals. For some people, this means that they may not access the health care system when they need it or that they don't get the care essential to their health and well-being.

Additionally, some gay healthcare providers and providers-in-training experience discrimination or fear the repercussions of "coming out" on the job. Thus, they may be less able to advocate for changes within their institutions that would improve care for gay patients.

Panelists included Shane Leslie Snowdon, Director, LGBTI Resources, University of California; Joel Ginsberg, Executive Director, Gay and Lesbian Medical Association; Ignatius Bau, Board Member, Funders for Lesbian & Gay Issues, and Program Director, The California Endowment

The coalition is a volunteer-led effort to create a regionally representative community center that is both a location and a unifying point for central Pennsylvania's large, diverse and multi-county LGBT population.

"The mission of the LGBT Center Coalition is to create common ground for the community and allies in central Pennsylvania by providing services through spiritual, education and cultural activities that foster wholeness," Dunlap says.

The coalition wants to create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments. The newly-appointed coalition board is now visiting business and other organizations in the region to establish an awareness of glbt needs. The community center board is a newly-established group looking at ways to first develop that sense of community.

For information on The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center Coalition: www.centralpalgbtcenter.org

Community Invited to Passover Sedar

Temple Beth Shalom of Mechanicsburg invites the community to enjoy a Traditional Passover Seder Sun., April 20, 6:30 p.m. at the Mechanicsburg Naval Officers Club, Sporting Hill Road. Cost for the meal is $30 for adults and $12.50 for children ages 5-12. No charge for children 4 and under. Please RSVP to 697-2662 no later than April 9 if you plan to attend.

Local Stonewall Democrats Elect New Board

Local Stonewall Democrats recently elected a new board of directors. 2008 co-chairs are Lee Geisler and Jeff Welshans; Secretary, Jim Akers; Treasurer, Alex Reber; At-large Board Members are Russ Boggs, Judy Chambers, Bob Neese, Vince Petrosino, and David Walker.

The group also completed a members' survey indicating members are a politically active group. More than 90% of the membership votes in every primary and general election. The top 10 activities members requested include: electing glbt candidates; meeting candidates; meeting elected officials; being an visible group within the Democratic Party; increasing turnout of registered glbt voters; registering new voters; lobbying elected officials on issues; happy hour mixers at local bars and restaurants; picnics; staff a table at Pride and other events. The top item, electing glbt candidates, was far and away the most popular item.

Harrisburg's PAL Building Not Stalled, Developers Say

Popular blogger Jersey Mike recently reported on progress surrounding development of Midtown Harrisburg's Police Athletic Building (PAL), 1110 N. 3rd Street, by New York City developers Bartlett, Traynor and London, LLC.

The developers have reportedly spent more than $60,000 to get plans and permissions in place. Harrisburg City has reportedly spent $150,000 to stabilize the deteriorating building.

In the mid 1980s after it was essentially abandoned, the defunct and banned gay Catholic organization Dignity sponsored intramural volleyball in the building's gym. John Traynor had originally told the media his group wanted to turn the center into a full-fledged arts complex for Midtown Harrisburg. The space would include art studios, performance space, educational facilities, and a café. Renovations were to begin last fall.

"We closed with the city on November 30 and finally took possession of the building" Traynor explained, "and will be choosing a developer [from outstanding bids] this week." He went on to explain that groundbreaking should take place by the end of January or early February.

"I just had a meeting with the city earlier today about them getting some of their stuff out of the building". He continued. "We didn't realize how many hoops we'd have to jump through with the architectural review board, the city council and the historical society. All of the plans have been approved so we'll be full steam ahead [upon selection of a contractor]."

Central VOICE
Central to your life.

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publisher's note

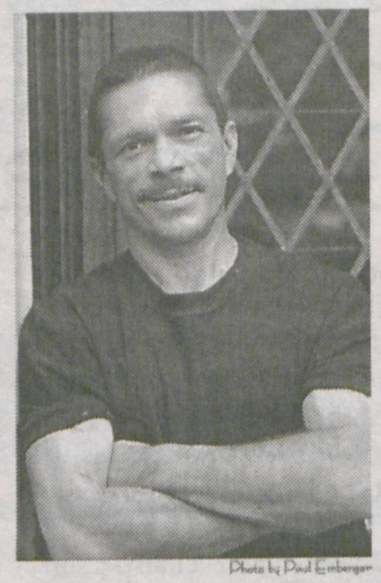
Photo by Paul Ebenberger

Have You Ever Been Really Hungry?

Have you ever been really hungry? I don't mean you were racing home for a favorite meal waiting on the stove. I mean your belly hurt and you had no food to eat. Worldwide 852 million people go to bed hungry every night, according to the United Nations Millennium Project.

Most of the planet's hungry are in Asia, particularly India (221 million) and China (142 million). Sub-Saharan Africa has 204 million hungry and is the only region of the world where hunger is increasing.

Hunger occurs in three different forms: acute, chronic, and hidden. Most people see haunting television images of starvation that typically occurs during famines and disasters. But those suffering from such acute hunger represent only a small proportion – roughly 10 percent – of the world's hungry. Most of the hungry, approximately 90 percent, are chronically undernourished. Chronic undernourishment is caused by a constant or recurrent lack of access to food of sufficient quality and quantity, often coupled with poor health care. These factors result in underweight and stunted children as well as high child mortality brought about by associated diseases.

Three key factors – gender inequality, HIV/AIDS, and climate change – exacerbate hunger in vulnerable countries. Due to social inequalities, women are often disproportionately vulnerable to hunger. Although they are responsible for the bulk of food production – more than 80 percent in Africa – they continue to be bypassed by most agricultural programs. Women should be empowered and supported in their multiple roles as food producers, household nutrition managers and caregivers, and marketers and traders. Gender equality is not simply socially desirable; it is a central pillar in the fight against hunger. Gender equality is a family value.

HIV/AIDS is increasing the vulnerability of millions of chronically hungry households. The interactions of drought, hunger, and AIDS in parts of the world are leading to complex humanitarian crises that threaten long-term social and economic development. Agriculture, health, and other sectors should recognize their joint responsibilities and take action together to combat these crises.

Climate change is expected to disrupt ecosystems and hence agricultural production on a devastating scale in the years ahead. Poor food producers will suffer, but so too will urban food consumers, as prices rise.

Estimates are that $50 billion annually for a decade would end their agony. In today's upsized world, that's not a lot of money.

Spending that kind of cash doesn't mean we'd buy only food. Those dollars must be directed to income poverty, disease, exclusion, lack of infrastructure and shelter while promoting gender equality, education, health, and environmental sustainability. All the buzz words entitlement Republicans don't like. Entitlement Republicans are those folks who want all the tax breaks and all our tax revenue so they can rig the system. That's how nearly 50 million citizens in the country with the "best health care system in the world", most of whom work or are their children, go without health care.

The same tax breaks support hunger worldwide.

The first scream we hear from those opposed to sane economic development policies like ending hunger worldwide or national health care coverage is how will we pay for such programs? How about we start with cutting out all the special programs that together represent corporate welfare? Instead of building bridges to nowhere let's concentrate on building bridges to other people in need.

Ideas we can consider:

1. Move from words to deeds. Advocate political action to end hunger.

2. Create change by challenging those who say ending hunger cannot be achieved.

3. Link nutritional and agricultural interventions so that tax supported agriculture grows food for people who don't have any.

4. Increase the agricultural productivity of food-insecure farmers by improving soil health and water management.

5. Feed our own too by promoting mother and infant nutrition (that's a family value)

6. Reduce malnutrition among school-age children and adolescents.

7. Reduce the prevalence of infectious diseases worldwide that contribute to malnutrition

8. Increase incomes and make markets work for the poor. It's the capitalist thing to do.

9. Restore and conserve the natural resources essential for food security

For more information about the Task Force on Hunger, contact: htf@iri.columbia.edu

- Frank Pizzoli, Publisher

letters to the editor

"Disappointed"

I was very disappointed in reading "Transgender Individuals Rejected Again with ENDA," in which Central Voice's star transgender columnist, Kristen Richards, explicitly calls for a halting of the flow of funds by Human Rights Campaign (HRC) supporters.

As the Pennsylvanian 17th Congressional District Coordinator since 1994, I will respond on behalf of the HRC: We are doing the best that we can do. We know the history of the transgender community, and we lament the non-inclusive nature of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. We are not giving up, but are moving ahead with a little less than what we wanted. We ask for the continuing support of the entire community, including the transgender community, for HRC representatives who are devoting their working lives to effect fairness for our entire community, of which the transgender community is a vital part.

When inclusive protection does finally pass, I will have no remorse of knowing my support of HRC was conditional. Kristen, I hope you can say the same someday.

-Daniel Kane, HRC PA 17th Congressional District Coordinator since 1994

"Punching Bag"

I'm sure hoping that this next presidential election doesn't once again make the glbt community a punching bag. Why does the Religious Right need a target to hate?

-Donald, Lancaster

"Trans Inclusion"

I am going back through emails that came in during the ENDA debate to acknowledge the good work of many. During the heat of it all, there wasn't time to properly acknowledge what folks had done during the fight, and I wanted to let you know that I appreciate all the work you did. I am sure we will eventually pass a fully trans-inclusive ENDA.

-Lisa Mottet, Esq.
Transgender Civil Rights Project, Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

"Insightful"

Thank you for publishing a wonderful and insightful newspaper.

-Martin Velez, Artist, Harrisburg

"Enjoyable"

I was reading through the latest issue of Central Voice. You do a great job, a very enjoyable publication.

-Key West Reader

voice box

"My partner, we're lesbians, and I had a really bad experience. We made a New Year's resolution to take better care of ourselves. Eat better. Walk more. We made an appointment with a doctor who was new for both of us. My partner insisted we should start out equal with a doctor so we picked someone from an ad that looked like he'd be into wellness. In the waiting room his patients were really backward towards us. They starred, mumbled under their breath. One openly glared at us as we sat there. We just got up and left.

Email your thoughts and experiences to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com

Imagine Deeds, Not Words

By Kelly Lewis, CEO
Technology Council of Central PA

your voice

The Global Thing

Imagine having the cure for polio, and forty (40) years passing before polio is close to eradication. Imagine malaria killing millions and decades passing before the cures get deployed! Imagine one billion people without safe drinking water, yet existing, affordable technology remains un-deployed in the very places it could save the most lives. Imagine decades of silence. Then, imagine mankind more rapidly deploying technology to save lives.

The USA Thing

Imagine having existing technology that instantly connects hospitals so patients and physicians have all available medical information in order to make the best medical decisions. In other words, imagine the technologies that instantly track every component of a Dell computer at every step in their global supply chain, real-time; but not using those commonly-used technologies in our health care delivery systems to track and trace patient health information. Imagine not using these readily available technologies to track, trace and verify our water & food to greatly reduce water and food-borne deaths and illnesses. Imagine not using existing technologies that can eradicate the use of hand-scribbled paper prescriptions and replace the same with a fully-managed electronic prescription (ePrescription) system that instantly verifies medical history, allergies, medical formularies and cost savings in excess of $65 BILLION per year. Imagine an economy that uses computers everyday but an economy that trains its students and future workers without computers. Imagine an economy that needs twice the number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) graduates it is producing; without a plan, public, private or otherwise, to get it done. Imagine our USA using technologies to advance life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in deeds, not just words.

The Pennsylvania Thing

Imagine the keystone birthplace of liberty and mankind's best hope for freedom, witnessing these Global and USA things, and not self-righteously pouring its famous energies, talents and resources into the solutions our world so desperately needs.

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Reform in General Assembly Barely Breathing

By Bonita C. Hoke
League of Women Voters of PA

your voice

Movement within Pennsylvania's General Assembly toward government reform may not be dead but it's barely breathing.

The profound lack of results is more than enough reason for citizens to demand that re-districting reform legislation is passed by early summer. The boundaries of legislative districts to which voters are assigned are changed every ten years to accommodate shifts in population.

The shape of the redesigned districts are drawn by the very politicians whose political futures will be affected. Redistricting as currently practiced has made Pennsylvania one of the most gerrymandered states in the country. Gerrymandering means drawing the boundaries of voting districts in such a way as to rig elections, thus denying citizens their right to a fair vote.

Politicians no longer need constituents to vote them into office. So insidious and long practiced is this "self-election" that many voters don't connect the dots between gerrymandering and the hijacking of their Constitutional rights. Who cares?

This is the test. You care about gerrymandering if you care about even one of the following issues: paying high taxes, affording access to health care, decent roads and safe bridges, quality public education, losing your civil rights, having a voice in the way you are governed.

Sure-fire signs of the effects of non-representative gerrymandering you may have noticed include:

Loss of voting power: Voters lose their most important civil right - the right to choose their representatives. This basic democratic freedom is repeatedly stolen by politicians to ensure their own re-election and to expand their own political power.

Low voter turnout: When the outcome of elections is predetermined by politicians, going to the polls and voting becomes an empty exercise. Eventually voters stay home when they realize that they are not able to elect the representatives they want.

Political polarization: When district boundaries are drawn to guarantee the election of incumbents or another candidate from the same party there is no need to

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Will We Learn From History?

John R. Zimmer, CEO
Associated Builders & Contractors
Keystone Chapter

your voice

In 1787, Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, had this to say about the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years earlier: "A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government." He added, "A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority will vote for candidates who will give them free handouts and every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy."

The average age of most of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, those nations always progressed through almost an identical sequence. They moved from bondage to spiritual faith to liberty and abundance. Once the good times rolled, it lead to complacency, apathy, dependence and finally back to bondage. Sound familiar?

We are in tenuous times, on borrowed time and most of us don't really care! In PA, a few large cities vote solid Democrat because those candidates promise what their constituents think they want: socialization of benefits, distribution of wealth, subsidized housing and essentially complete dependency on government. It's a small geographic area with a high density population.

Look at PA and how much tax money goes to Philly, paid for by everyone else in the rural "conservative T," of which Lancaster is smack dab in the middle.

2008 is a critical election year. Candidates who promise the moon but never address how they plan to pay for it, concern me — how about you? Candidates who believe the free enterprise system and capitalism is a bad thing that needs to be taxed and regulated concern me — how about you? Will they prevail in 2008? Will we overcome complacency and apathy to perpetuate liberty and abundance? Or will we allow a minority in the big cities, bent on dependence, become the majority?

If we don't learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it.

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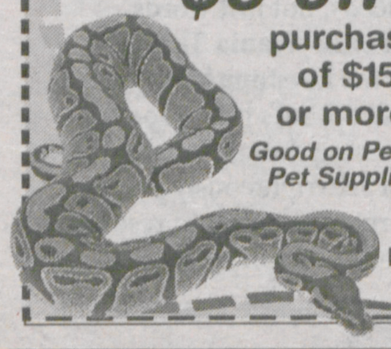

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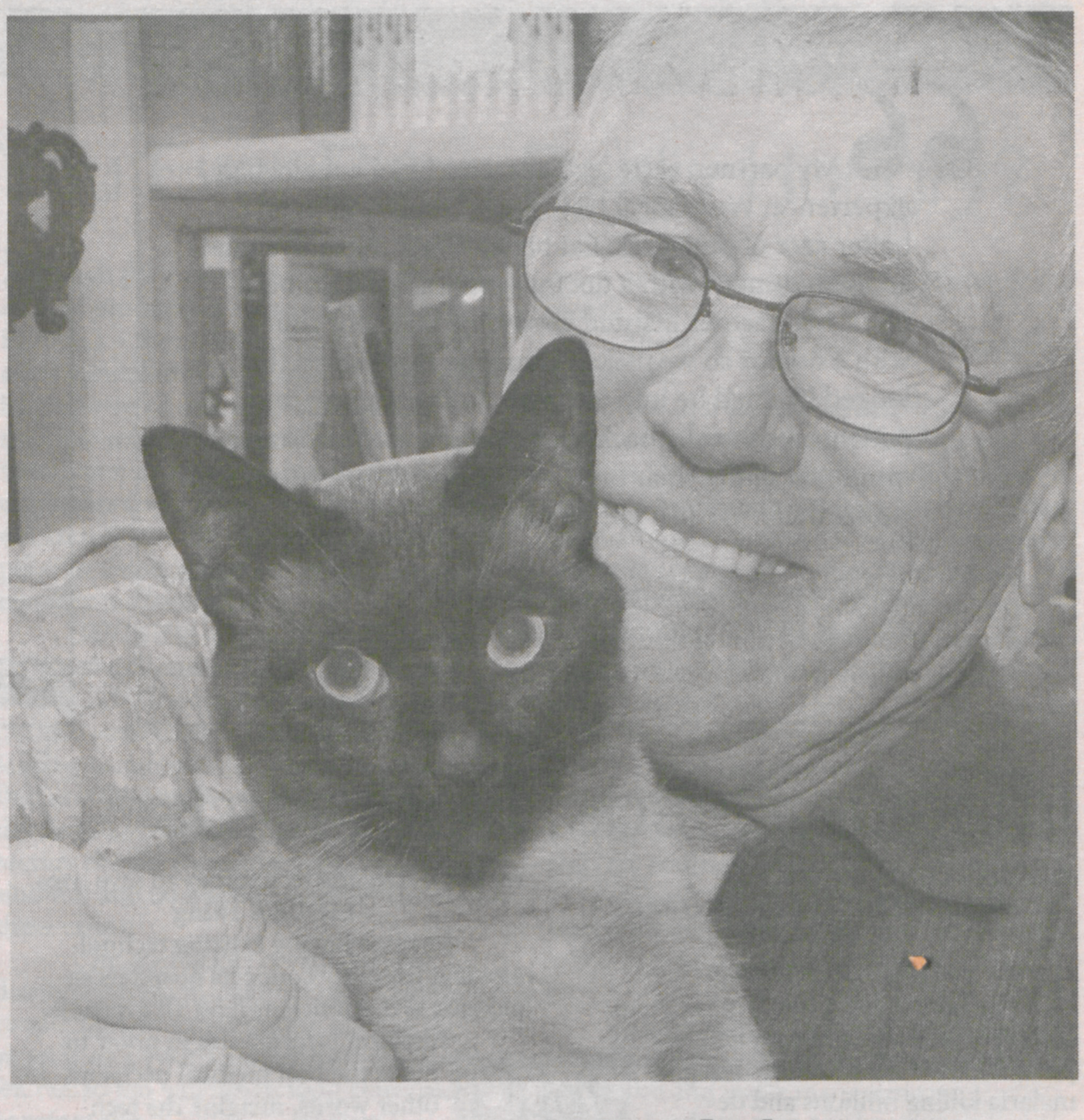

The Truth About Cats and Dogs

CATS:

- There are approximately 90 million owned cats in the United States
- Nearly 36 percent of U.S. households (or 38.4 million) own at least one cat
- Fifty-six percent of owners own more than one cat
- On average, owners have two cats (2.3)
- More female cats are owned than male cats (73 percent vs. 63 percent respectively)
- Eighteen percent of owned cats were adopted from an animal shelter
- Cat owners spent an average of $175 on routine veterinary visits
- Eighty-seven percent of owned cats are spayed or neutered

DOGS:

- There are approximately 74.8 million owned dogs in the US
- Thirty-nine percent of U.S. households own at least one dog
- Most owners (63 percent) own one dog
- Twenty-five percent of owners own two dogs
- Twelve percent of owners own three or more dogs
- On average, owners have almost two dogs (1.7)
- The proportion of male to female dogs is even
- Ten percent of owned dogs were adopted from an animal shelter
- On average, dog owners spent $219 on veterinary visits annually
- Seventy-five percent of owned dogs are spayed or neutered

For additional information on pet ownership statistics, contact the APPMA at 255 Glenville Rd., Greenwich, CT 06831, 800-452-1225, or visit www.appma.org
Statistics were compiled from the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association (APPMA) 2007-2008 National Pet Owners Survey.

Transgender Education Association of Central PA

Trans-Central PA

Mission Statement: *"Providing a safe space for gender education & caring support for transgender individuals, family, friends, & allies."*

Meetings: First Saturday each month, 8-11 PM
Location: Metropolitan Community Church of Harrisburg
2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA 17110
Details: Parking available in secure, low-traffic area.
Light refreshments provided.
Smoking & Alcohol are not permitted.

Gender Education and Outreach Offered to Universities, GSA Groups, Businesses, and Government & Non-Profit Agencies

March 1 - Meeting, Guest Speaker & Discussion Groups
March 15 - Spring Fling '08 at Bube's Brewery. Dinner, Entertainment & Music
April 5 - Meeting, Guest Speaker & Discussion Groups

www.transcentralpa.org
Managing Director: Jeanine Ruhsam – waterfilly@yahoo.com
Outreach Director: Pam H.

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania Lobby for TransCentral PA

By Kristen Richards

Last January, Jake Kaskey, Outreach Director for Equality Advocates Pennsylvania (EAP) visited Trans CentralPA (the regon's transgender support group) to discuss potential non-discrimination legislation (HB 1400 and SB 761) in Pennsylvania. He solicited the group to join the growing coalition of alliances across the state to help ensure the legislation becomes state law.

According to Kaskey, "Pennsylvania law currently provides protections against discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, handicap or disability, education and the use of a guide dog. But not sexual or gender orientation and/or /expression."

transgender voice

Cities with Protection

In Pennsylvania, there are 13 municipalities with protections in place, based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity/ expression. Those municipalities are Allentown, Easton, Erie County, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lansdowne, New Hope, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Swarthmore, West Chester and York. The fourteenth, State College, has an ordinance that covers sexual orientation discrimination in housing only.

US Census in 2000 reported roughly 12 million people reside in Pennsylvania. Twenty percent of the state's residents reside in the cities with non-discrimination ordinances. In essence, nearly 80 % of the state's residents have no protection from sexual and/or gender discrimination with regard to employment, housing and other public accommodations. And individuals can be legally discriminated against even if they are perceived as being glbt. Perception is a key word.

Uncertainty and Inconsistencies

When passing through municipal boundaries, uncertainty and inconsistencies occur regarding protection from non-discrimination ordinances. For example, Elizabeth lives in the Harrisburg but works in Middletown. Her employer fires her because she is gay. She has no employment protection because Middletown has no non-discrimination ordinance. However, if she completes a renter's application to rent a home in Harrisburg and is denied due to her sexual preference, she has housing protection against such discrimination. Likewise, Sally works in York but lives in Marietta. York has an ordinance and Sally has employment protection, but not in Marietta.

EAP Supports Trans Community

EAP offers assistance to transgender individuals for legal name changes, a major obstacle in certain instances. Driver's licenses and other legal documents require consistency with regard to names. Presenting legal name documentation that's incongruent with a person's assigned birth name is embarrassing, creates confusion and places one in precarious situations. EAP offers a statewide legal name change guide and step-by-step assistance for changing one's name. One may also consult their local "family" attorney for further information.

EAP understands the transgender community and some of its basic needs. Trans CentralPA is the first transgender group in Pennsylvania EAP approached. EAP also was one of the country's first groups to speak against the ENDA/HRC fiasco last fall. They are a grass roots organization and will not offer lip service when convenient nor turn their backs on a large segment of the glbt population in the political arena.

As a result of Kaskey's impressive presentation and EAP's credentials with the transgender community, several members pledged to support EAP and signed on to speak in person to their elected officials about supporting the upcoming legislation, and that gender/sexual discrimination will not be tolerated in their backyards.

For further information on HB 1400 and SB 761, talking points for speaking to your elected official, please call EAP's legal hotline at 1-866-LGBTLAW or visit http://equalityPennsylvania.org.

TransCentral PA Hosts Spring Fling at Bube's Brewery

TransCentral PA's hosts its annual "Spring Fling" at Bube's Brewery in Historic Mount Joy, March 15. The event is the region's largest trans party. The evening includes dinner, entertainment, music, dancing and cash bar. The invitation is open to everyone who is trans, their significant others, friends, and family. Dress is semi-formal. Cocktails start at 6 pm. Dinner is 7:30 pm.

Bube's Brewery is an intact, historic 19th century brewery and museum complex. There are several restaurants and bars throughout the complex. The dining and social area is secluded to ensure privacy. Cost: $30 if registered by March 1, $35 afterwards. Payment can be made online at www.transcentralpa.org or sent to TransCentral PA Spring Fling '08, c/ o MCC of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

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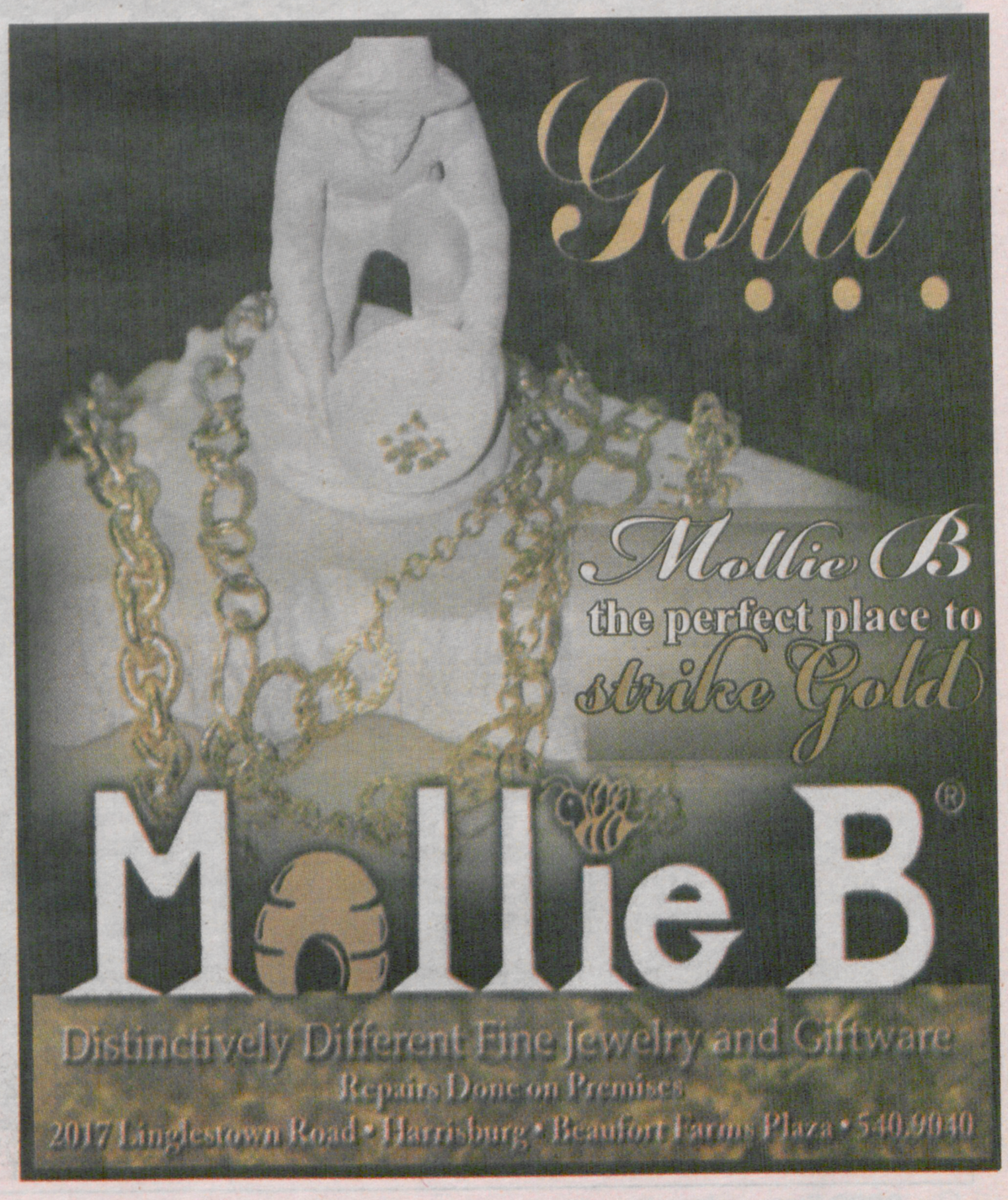
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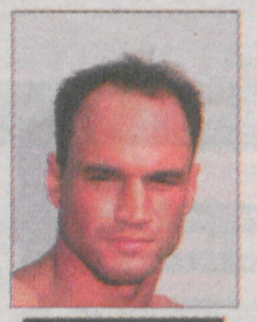

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Lancaster art scene exploding

Gallery Owners Spot Trends

By Frank Pizzoli

"Business art is the step that comes after Art," Warhol said. Art and commerce are merging everywhere. The trend is for brand-name artists to endorse and create for top-shelf labels like Louis Vutton and Fendi.

In nearby Philadelphia, art historian and gallery maven Deb Miller see no trends on the horizon. "It's a free-for-all now and I never know what to expect," she says. Miller finds no consistency at galleries she deals with regarding prices, styles, media, emerging or well-known artists, or "typical" buyers.

Locally, gallery owners see demand for more specialized services, alternatives to busy malls, and cozy home visits.

Pure Gallery

"The most significant change I have seen is people wanting the more specialized services,'" says Rose Anderson, Pure Gallery, Camp Hill. "People love to shop at home and we'll bring art, frame corners and mat samples to your home so you can make a selection in your own space, with your own furniture and color scheme to really get comfortable with the art and framing," she explains. "We like to spend the time educating clients on the nuances of art and framing," she says.

Her gallery also delivers and installs any artwork we sell at no additional charge, which more people, she notes, are requesting. Anderson's typical client is well educated and well traveled. She also maintains an email newsletter and web site for clients.

Pure Gallery is unique "because we concentrate on nationally and internationally known artists – both originals and limited editions," Anderson currently carries three Salvador Dali etchings and two original Tarkay images. "You want something I don't have? Give me a call. If I can get it, I will," she tells readers. (737-3134)

Red Raven Art Company

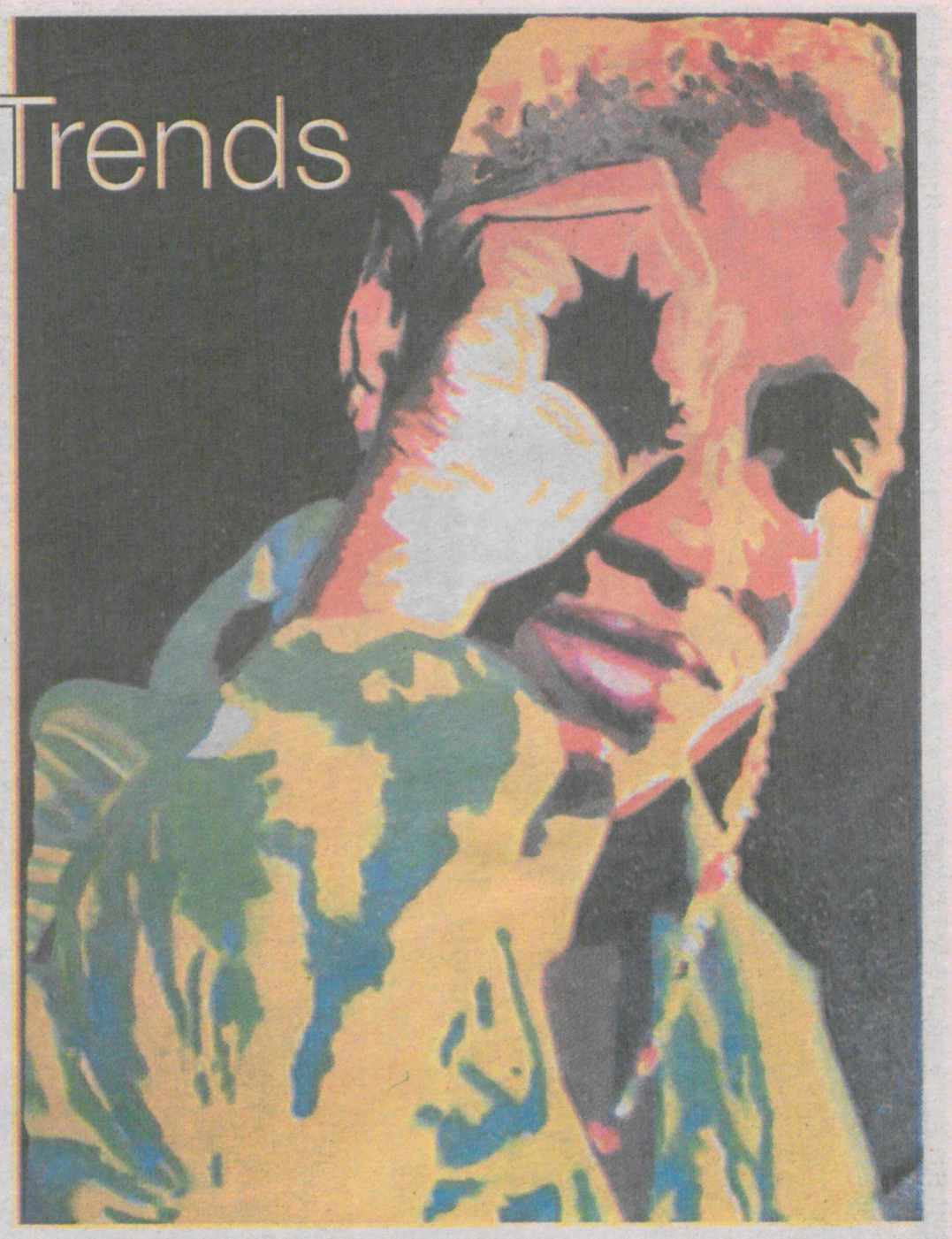
"We believe word of mouth about Lancaster's art scene is spreading. We'll see more out of town people coming to check us out," says Lee Lovett, of Lancaster's Red Raven Art Company. He already enjoys solid support from "Lancaster art lovers" which describes as an expanding group,

"We're becoming known as the gallery that always offers new artists and works to view monthly," Lovett says. Resident artists change out work monthly. He brings in regional artists as well. The gallery also has an emerging artist program featuring high school and college artists." Red Raven also provides museum bus trips to New York City and Washington, DC, with seven trips scheduled for 2008. (299 4400)

Art Association of Harrisburg

Art doyen Carrie Wissler-Thomas sees " a surge of interest in the arts in our area." The Art Association of Harrisburg has seen greatly increased attendance at their art classes. "Our students come from all walks of life, are of varied ethnic and economic groups, and of all ages," she says.

Continued on page 11>



Looking Through Time by Lonnie Gordon (see page 18 for more about Lonnie)

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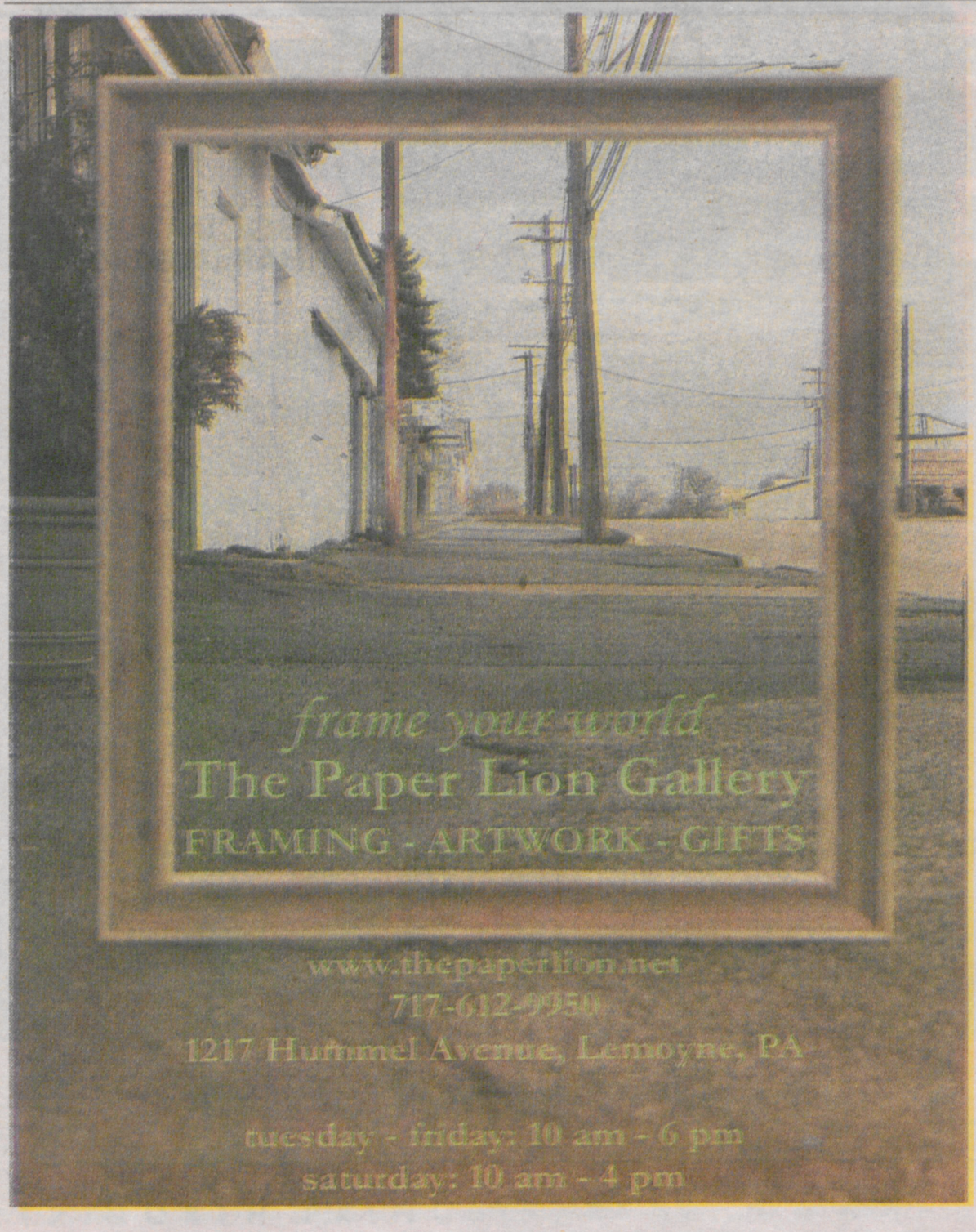

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Gallery Trends

Continued from page 9

Wissler-Thomas has also witnessed increased attendance at exhibition receptions. "I know that other galleries are springing up and are also experiencing an increase in attendance," she says. At exhibitions, purchasers are private individuals who are collecting art for their homes.

A typical AAH "customer" is a business person needing art for a home or office setting. "Our gallery is unique because the Art Association is the region's oldest and largest fine arts organization. Our historic building houses five exhibition galleries, studios for classes, offices and a Sales Gallery. The association has about 800 members from the region, other states, and several other countries. (236-1432)

Paper Lion

Paper Lion's Jim Hadfield and Bill Grace say "the most significant change in the gallery world we foresee for 2008 is the time and thought that the consumer is putting into the purchase of artwork. It is a very personal decision and we are definitely seeing careful consideration when choosing artwork."

"Our clients look for pieces they will enjoy for a long time, particularly when they are going to the expense of framing a piece that is going to be a focal point in their home décor. What always surprises us is the strong opinions people have about what they like and don't like. This includes our corporate clients as well," the owners say

Their customers are moving to "conservation and museum grade quality materials" when making framing decisions about their artwork." Hadfield and Grace also forecast that limited edition pieces will continue in popularity as reasonably priced alternatives to original artwork while maintaining the integrity of the artist. (612-9950)

2nd Floor Gallery & Gallerie 13

In spite of arts markets down in some areas, Jeffrey Van Boskirk, 2nd Floor Gallery & Gallerie 13, Mechaniscburg, says "We've only seen a slight drop in sales for some months. Most months have been the same or better. He has more than 11, 000 sq. ft of display space and carries all types of art. "So we should see an increase in traffic as well as sales with the new programs and events we're scheduling," he says. He believes that if sales slow down "you have to get more creative to keep things fresh and exciting."

He has artist receptions every month and adds or exchanges over 100 new art pieces monthly. "We carry local new artists as well as international artists. His space has 18 studios where people can watch artists work.

Van Boskirk's typical customer is "everyone who shows some kink of interest in art." He tries to create new customers and art collectors. "We start new collectors out with a small work of art or we find a piece from an international artist that someone maybe looking for." (697-0502)

Village Artisans Gallery

Boiling Springs' Village Artisans Gallery celebrates it's 13th anniversary on April 1.

"We started in 1995 with the work of about 50 craftsmen and artists and three on-site craft studios," says PJ Heyman. Today the gallery represents about 200 American craftsmen and artists and the on-site wood carving studio of folk art carver Gay Foltz.

American artists rather than mass produced imports attract Heyman's customers. "Our customers find unique, quality handcrafted work," Heyman says. They also enjoy the gallery's unusual setting, a circa 1875 former church that has been transformed into a welcoming and relaxing space. "Getting away from the rush and crush of mall shopping is a trend I expect to continue." Heyman observes.

Heyman serves local customers who find wedding or birthday gifts, sometimes on their way to the festivities, having it wrapped on the spot and still arriving in time. Out of town visitors purchase unique Pennsylvania crafted gifts. They have regular customers from Washington DC, Maryland and Delaware. They've also had buyers from Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Holland Great Britain and Sweden.

The gallery's annual series of about 20 twenty "Artists in Action" demonstrations allows the public to talk to craftsmen and artists directly. Gay Foltz, resident folk art wood carver, can be seen creating her whimsical wood figures, boxes and Santas and anything else she can dream up. Foltz has been featured on HGTV's "That's Clever" and WITF's "Explore PA" and in many print publications. (258-3256)

Arts at 510

One gallery owner forecasts that 2008 will see more art buyers looking for more value to their investment. "We will still have the serious art collectors, but the smaller and lesser priced items may prevail," says Harrisburg Arts at 510 owner Susan Schreckengaust.

Her typical customer is a mix of serious art lovers and collectors, coupled with those looking for accessory purchases, jewelry, pottery and glass. 510 is known for offering varied offerings with options for all tastes and budgets. "Our customer service is impeccable. We treat our customers like rock stars!"

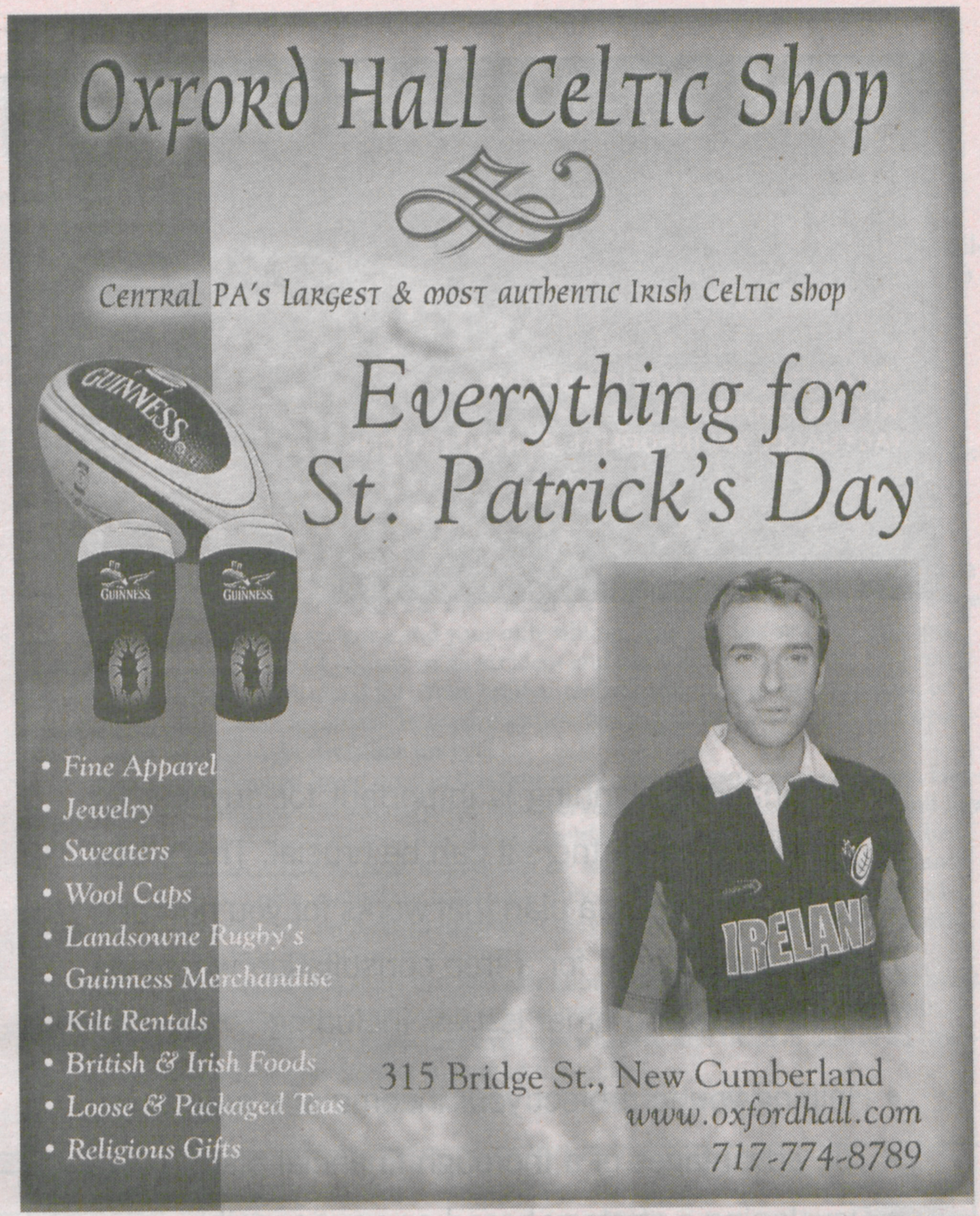
Trends or no trends, Miller says "The only thing I can say with certainty is that I'm surprised at how much we've been selling, considering the state of the economy." Schreckengaust thinks it's "more important than ever to see an increase in art galleries in Downtown Harrisburg. We need an Art Row and with the new hotels coming to town, we expect that this will help to spur the growth and change we would love to see." (724.0364)

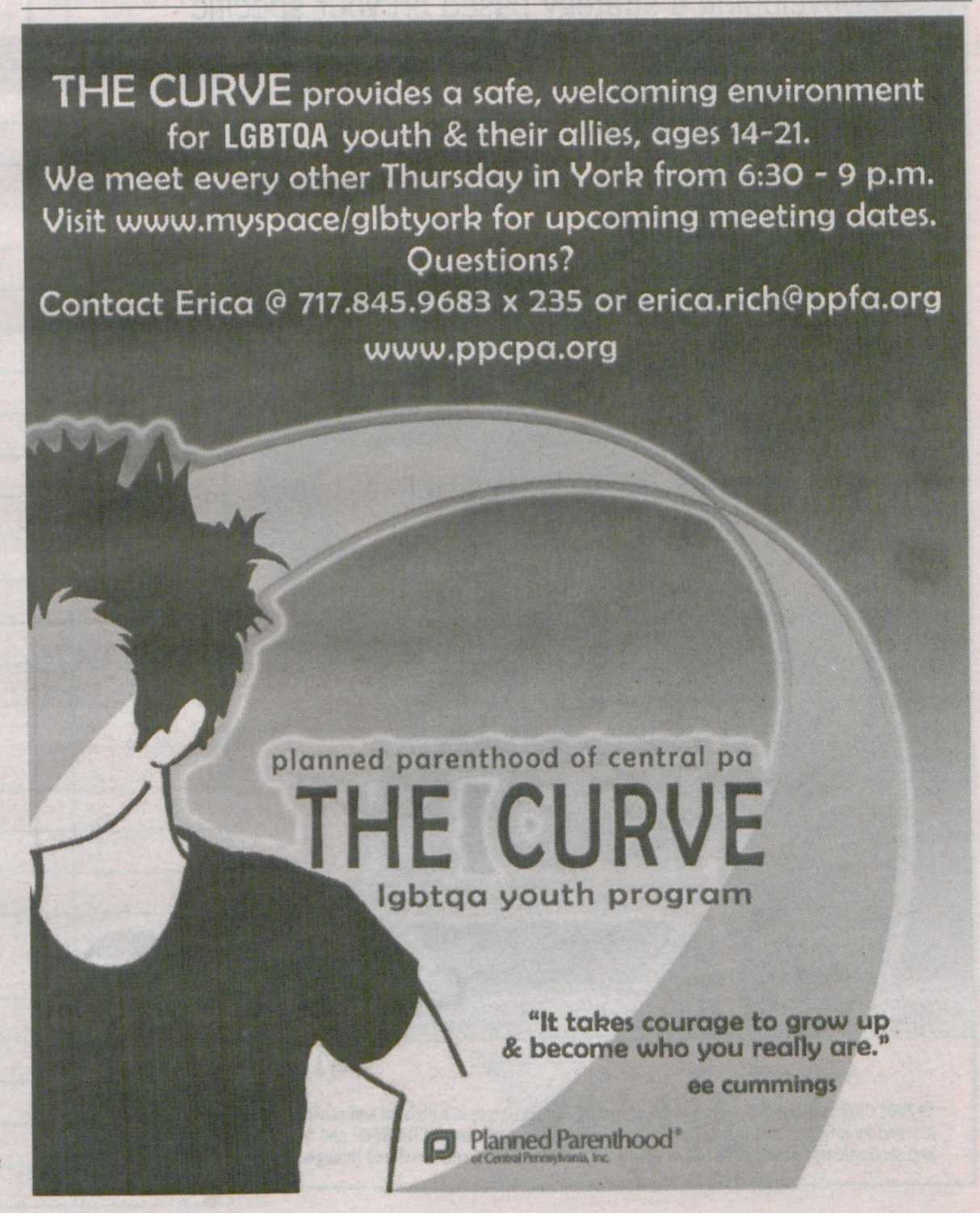
Gallery Garden

"People are more introspective and nostalgic in these grim times of war and the Bush economy," says," Charles Andrews, of Carlisle's Gallery Garden. "They tend to savor their home life and will buy accordingly," adds Susie Andrews.

The gallery has been representing artists for 32 years. Their typical customer is a cross section of the socioeconomic spectrum, but with one thing in common. "They all share a sensitivity to the world around them and a genuine curiosity," Charles Andrews says. To work around economics impinging on buying ability, the establishment does have a layaway policy. They also specialize in art restoration, repair and conservation, photography, frames and crafts.

"Central Voice does a superb job of representing art and antiques, and suggest it is a niche they own in central Pennsylvania," says Charles Andrews. (249-1721)

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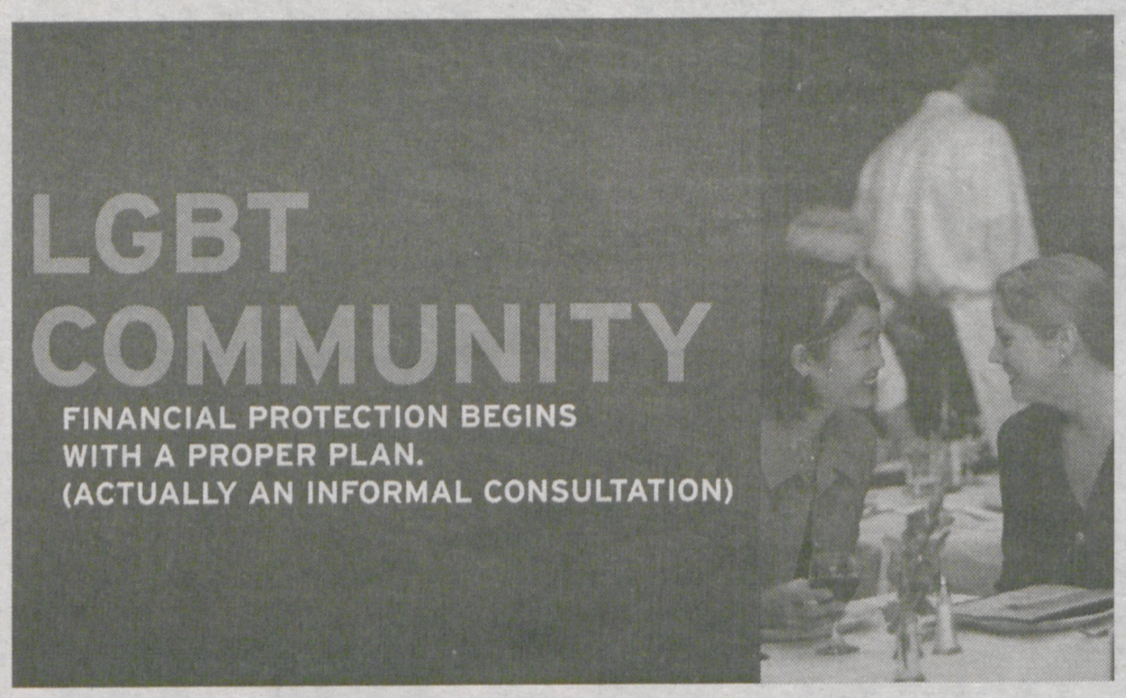

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Investing in a Greener World

By Ronald Wetzel
Citi Smith Barney

Every investor wants to identify attractive investment opportunities. If you are like many investors, you also may want to help protect the environment. Wouldn't it be great if you could do both at the same time?

Maybe you can. By seeking out companies that attempt to minimize environmental damage or that are developing techniques to improve energy efficiency, recycle industrial wastes and combat global climate change, investors may be able to do good for the planet while doing the right thing for their portfolios.

The strategy is called "green investing," and it's grabbing the attention of both institutional and individual investors—thanks to rising oil prices, increased concern about greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and regulatory incentives that are encouraging major corporations to adopt more environmentally friendly policies and boost their own spending on clean technologies.

This trend is part of a larger movement towards socially responsible investing—screening potential investments based both on traditional financial criteria and the investor's own moral or ethical standards. Nearly one dollar in every ten under professional management in the United States today is invested using such screens, and environmental issues are increasingly moving to the top of the list. Consider that:

·In one 2006 survey of investors, 91% said they favored socially responsible strategies because they wished to avoid companies they believed harm the environment.

·Two of the nation's largest pension funds, the California Public Employee Retirement System and its educational counterpart, the California Teachers Retirement System, have invested more than $1 billion in environmentally screened investments.

·More than 1,200 corporations have endorsed the Global Reporting Initiative, a multinational effort to create a standard set of environmental criteria that investors and other stakeholders can use to evaluate company performance.

Increasingly, however, green investing involves more than just screening companies to identify those with acceptable environmental practices. The drive to improve energy efficiency and find alternatives to fossil fuels is creating new markets and stimulating the growth of new companies, and even new industries, to serve those markets.

Clean Edge, an environmental-research firm, has estimated that annual spending on four alternative-energy technologies—solar power, wind power, biofuels and fuel cells—rose almost 40% in 2006, from $40 billion to $55 billion. Clean Edge predicts that the market will reach $226 billion by the year 2016. Citi analysts, meanwhile, have identified dozens of companies in more than 20 industries worldwide that they expect will benefit from the effort to combat global climate change.

One key factor driving the growth of green technologies—and green investing—has been the international regulatory response to the climate-change issue. Efforts such as the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which capped greenhouse gas emissions by certain countries, have spurred the development of markets that allow companies to buy and sell "carbon credits," which give them the right to release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Although the United States has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol and a number of developing countries, such as China and India, are not required to limit their greenhouse emissions, the carbon-trading market has still grown rapidly, particularly in the 27-nation European Union. This has created new opportunities for banks and other financial institutions and has also promoted investment in reforestation and other carbon-reduction projects in emerging economies—which then can be converted into credits.

Not surprisingly, these same trends also have prompted the investment industry to jump into green investing in a big way, offering a variety of mutual funds and other vehicles that bill themselves as "green," either because they avoid companies they consider environmentally unfriendly, invest in firms expected to benefit from a growing environmental market or both.

There's no question that green investing can generate attractive investment opportunities. However, investors would be wise not to go overboard in pursuing those opportunities—by making a company's environmental track record their sole investment standard, for example. More traditional criteria, such as price, valuation and expected earnings growth, still need to be taken into account, as does the wisdom of diversifying a portfolio by including a variety sectors and industries.

It's also important not to take claims of ecofriendliness at face value. Green-oriented funds use a variety of strategies to screen stocks, and these strategies can influence—and be influenced by—other factors, such as portfolio diversification.

Some funds, for example, evaluate the environmental performance of companies in absolute terms, while others do so relative to industry peers. The former practice can result in a "greener" portfolio but also a less diversified one. The latter method may enhance diversification but leave investors exposed to industries not typically considered friendly to the environment.

Through Smith Barney, investors have access a variety of environmentally sensitive investment vehicles, including funds offered by leading socially responsible fund companies such as Calvert, Domini and others. We also can draw on research from both in-house and independent sources that can help us advise you on stock selection or your choice of managers and funds. If you would like more information on green investing, or the many other services available through Smith Barney, please contact us. Ronald Wetzel, Financial Advisor, Citi Smith Barney, 11 N. Third Street, 2nd Floor, Harrisburg, Pa 17101, 717-780-1789

Uncomfortable Discussions

By Leo L. Dunn, Attorney

Most people do not like to think of, let alone discuss, death and dying or the possibility of being in a vegetative state. As an attorney who focuses on estate planning, it's my job to show you reasons to execute a living will/health care power of attorney.

Recently, a good friend had the following occur: She's a divorced, single mom with a son who is 18. The 'ex' lives close by and the son spends time with both. The 'ex' had an unforeseen heart problem, was admitted to the hospital and son was suddenly confronted with needing to make decisions if Dad's condition deteriorated. Dad left no instructions and had never told son his wishes regarding health care. Son now had two major stressors: Dad is seriously ill and son may have to decide if Dad is to be placed on life support. This time, Dad recovered. If there is a worse reoccurrence, son will have to make those decisions unless Dad has executed a living will.

Perhaps you want someone other than your legal 'next-of-kin' or the court to decide what happens if you cannot make your own decisions. You've been living with your partner for 35 years. Your parents are gone and your only sibling, who you last saw 10 years ago, lives in California. At age 64 you are in an accident and are now in a coma. Who do you want to decide how you're cared for? Your brother in California, the person you love, or some stranger the court appoints? Your partner now has major stress: you're ill and s/he has no legal right to make decisions for you.

Putting your closest loved ones in this type of dilemma doesn't show your love. Having a living will and power of attorney that tells everyone involved who's in charge and how you want decisions is an act of great love. First, it settles basic disagreements on who has the right to make decisions. Second, it gives that decision-maker guidance. They are not deciding to keep you off a ventilation machine – they are simply making sure your decisions are implemented. It comforts all involved if they do not need to make life-or-death decisions and that they are following your wishes.

By planning ahead, you show that you care about your loved ones. Execute the basic three planning documents: a living will, a general power of attorney, and a simple will. Then let everyone close to you know they exist and where to find them in case of an emergency. Everyone will be grateful that you are so thoughtful.

Leo Dunn may be contacted at 717-503-1207, www.leodunnlaw.com

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American Express Co.	AXP	65.89	41.15	49.13	×
Apple Computer Inc.	AAPL	202.96	82.86	135.36	×
Borders Group Inc.	BGP	24.15	8.81	11.29	×
Citigroup Inc.	C	55.55	22.36	28.17	×
Cummins Inc.	CMI	71.72	31.60	48.35	×
Deutsche Bank	DB	159.76	104.08	112.83	
General Mills Inc.	GIS	61.52	51.00	54.52	×
Intel Corp.	INTC	27.99	18.05	21.10	×
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	68.85	59.72	63.14	×
Kraft Foods Inc.	KFT	37.20	28.63	29.27	
Lexmark International Inc.	LXK	68.51	26.55	36.21	×
Microsoft Corp.	MSFT	37.50	26.60	32.60	×
Nike Inc.	NKE	67.93	47.67	61.33	×
Nordstrom Inc.	JWN	59.70	28.00	38.85	×
Owens Corning	OC	36.93	16.86	21.74	×
PepsiCo Inc.	PEP	79.79	61.89	68.05	×
Prudential Financial Inc.	PRU	103.27	75.49	84.07	×
Sun Microsystems	JAVA	27.12	14.20	17.50	×
SunTrust Banks Inc.	STI	94.18	54.30	68.85	×
Tech Data Corp.	TECD	41.40	31.36	34.38	×
The Charles Schwab Corp.	SCHW	25.72	17.41	22.30	×
Toyota Motor Sales, USA Inc.	TM	138.00	91.21	108.32	
US Airways Group	LCC	59.85	10.18	13.84	×
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Why Avoid High Fructose Corn Syrup?

By Deb Bixler

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It is plentiful and therefore cheap. The government is paying the farmers to grow corn through an out of date subsidy program. High fructose corn syrup is very stable and easy to use in processing. That coupled with the inexpensive cost makes it easy for all processed food manufacturers to include it in their recipes.

Avoid

When checking your food's ingredient list, avoid high fructose corn syrup at all cost. This may take some effort. When you start this quest you will find that almost everything on the grocery shelves includes high fructose corn syrup. Remember that all sugars are not created equal. You will never eliminate sugar entirely from your diet. All processed or convenience foods are not created equal. Convenience foods can be made right! Your family deserves the best!

Deb Bixler is a lifestyle coach and educator. www.DebBixler.com

Elizabeth Knight

Tea Master Book Signing at Oxford Hall Celtic Shop

Published author and tea expert Elizabeth Knight stops at New Cumberland's Oxford Hall Celtic Shop, 315 Bridge St., Sun., April 6, noon – 4 p.m as part of her book signing tour. The shop is offering free admission, tea and refreshments.

As a certified English Tea Master, Knight has written three books about tea and currently serves as a tea consultant in New York City. Her latest book is "Celtic Tea With Friends." Information: www.teawithfriends.com or www.oxfordhall.com

Join us on April 27 for AIDS Walk.

Starting at Carousel Pavilion on City Island, Harrisburg.

Registration begins at Noon, the walk starts at 2PM.

For more information call 1-800-867-1550.
Sign up today and **step up to fight AIDS.**

www.AIDSWalk-SCPA.kintera.org/2008

STEP UP
AIDS WALK
AIDS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
04 27 08

WHITAKER CENTER

SUNOCO PERFORMANCE THEATER

Adrian Belew with special guest
The California Guitar Trio
March 14, 7:30 p.m.

Known for his work with King Crimson, Adrian Belew also played with Frank Zappa, David Bowie, and the Talking Heads. Belew has a versatile style including hard rock, funk, new wave, Beatlesque pop. Belew was featured prominently on Tori Amos's album of covers, Strange Little Girls. With a number of solo albums under his belt, he was nominated for a Grammy® in 2005 for his single Beat Box Guitar, in the category Best Rock Instrumental Performance. Dust is Belew's newest solo release. Tickets $25

SUNOCO PERFORMANCE THEATER

Acoustics with Richard Marx
& Matt Scannell of Vertical Horizon
March 16, 7:30 p.m.

Grammy®-winning songwriter/producer Richard Marx has worked with Barbra Streisand, Josh Groban, Vince Gill, Luther Vandross, and many others. With the release of his latest album, Marx says, "For years I lived out of a suitcase," he says, "but I'm totally green again. Now I've got a whole new band of young musicians who will kick my butt every night. That will make me better." Matt Scannell rocks audiences around the world with enchanting and engaging music. Creatively, his musicianship embodies beautiful songwriting, passionate vocals, and a rich and versatile talent on guitar. Tickets $36

IMAX THEATRE

Film schedule and show times are subject to change without notice.

U2 3D
until May -

By National Geographic Cinema Ventures, U2 3D transforms a series of live concerts by one of the world's most acclaimed bands into a completely new entertainment experience. Audiences are taken on an extraordinary cinematic journey, as the film documents U2 on stage performing live in their hit-filled, sold out, globetrotting stadium show. Starring: Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen Jr. Approx 80 minutes.
Grand Canyon 3D: River at Risk - Opens March 22 - Set against the majestic backdrop of the Grand Canyon, Grand Canyon Adventure 3D: River at Risk takes audiences on an exhilarating river-rafting adventure down the Colorado River in the company of two 18-year old women, and their fathers, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., a world-renowned activist dedicated to water conservation and river restoration, and Wade Davis, anthropologist and writer. The film raises awareness of important issues like water management and crisis to global and individual responsibility. Grand Canyon 3D: River at the Risk is proudly supported by Kohler® and presented by Teva®.

STRAND-CAPITOL

JCFisher Band
March 7, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Studio at the Strand presents JCFisher Band, March 7, 8 & 10:30 p.m. as part of downtown York's First Fridays. JCFisher Band of York plays a mix of well-known cover songs and wry, witty originals in an acoustic guitar-based format. The group features Jerry Cohen on lead vocals and congas, Scott Fisher on guitar and vocals, and Greg Moomaw on bass and vocals.

Continued on page 18 >

In Perfect Harmony

March 8 & 9
IT'S ALL ABOUT RHYTHM!
Walton *Portsmouth for Orchestra*
Higdon *Percussion Concerto*
Ravel *La Valse*
Rimsky-Korsakov *Capriccio Espagnol*

March 11
STUART & FRIENDS
Stravinsky *Suite Italienne for Cello and Piano*
Mozart *Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano*
Brahms *Piano Quartet No. 2 in A Major*
Held at the Whitaker Center Sunoco Performance Theatre. Tickets available by calling 214-ARTS or online at WhitakerCenter.org

April 5 & 6
VOICES OF PEACE & JOY
Beethoven *Symphony No. 9*
Vaughan Williams *Dona Nobis Pacem*

April 26 & 27
STAY TUNED
A Capital BlueCross Pops Concert
Revisit memorable shows and commercials of the Golden Age of Television presented in the style of classic TV variety shows.

NO PROCESSING FEES!
when you order tickets online at
HarrisburgSymphony.org
Tickets also available by calling 717.545.5527

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra
Stuart Malina, *Music Director*

Whitaker CENTER
For Science and the Arts

Upcoming Performances

John Waters presenting "This Filthy World"

Fri, May 23

A special lecture by the award-winning director, 7pm
Champagne reception with the director, 8pm
Media sponsor Central Voice
Presented in association with the 2008 ArtsFest Film Festival

Also on sale

An Acoustic Evening of hits with Richard Marx & Matt Scannell of Vertical Horizon
Sun, March 16, 7:30pm

The Four Original Members of ASIA
Mon, April 7, 7:30pm
Classic rock

Tower of Power and the Average White Band
Tues, April 8, 7:30pm
R&B

Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo
Whitaker Center at the FORUM
Sun, April 13, 7:30pm
Classic rock

One Night of Queen
Tues, April 15, 7:30pm
Endorsed by Brian May

Forever Tango
Wed, April 16, 7:30pm
Direct from Broadway

The Rippingtons 20th Anniversary Tour
Thurs, April 17, 7:30pm
Smooth jazz

XPN Welcomes
Etta James and the Roots Band
Whitaker Center at the FORUM
Fri, April 18, 8pm

Richard Marx & Matt Scannell | ASIA | Etta James | Tower of Power the Average White Band

Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo | One Night of Queen | Forever Tango | The Rippingtons

Photo: Greg Gorman

Tickets: whitakercenter.org or 717/214-ARTS

Bluegrass... Breakdancing... Broadway!

The Pink Floyd Experience
Thur., Mar. 6 • 7:30pm
Experience the power of a Pink Floyd concert: mind-blowing lights & unsurpassed sound, all set to the innovative music of this influential rock group!
Sponsored by: stoudt advisors

Hairspray Thur. & Fri., Mar. 13 & 14 • 7:30pm
This Tony Award-winning musical comedy smash is a tribute to the 60's, rock & roll and Baltimore!
Sponsored by: Media sponsor: 21 WHP CBS CW15

Jigu! Thunder Drums of China
Thur., Apr. 3 • 7:30pm
This ultra-sensory entertainment experience will astound audiences of all ages with its 28 drummers, percussionists and musicians, high-tech lighting and special effects.

Break!
The Urban Funk Spectacular
Sat., Apr. 5 • 7:30pm
This high-energy tribute to Hip Hop features creative dance set to a pumping soundtrack with a live DJ and master percussionists.

Evita Tues., Apr. 8 • 7:30pm
This winner of 7 Tony Awards features one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's most memorable scores, including *Don't Cry for Me, Argentina.*
Signing provided for hearing impaired.
Sponsored by: York County Medical Society ENDOWMENT FUND

Barrage Fri., Apr. 11 • 7:30pm
A high-octane, energized fiddle-fest featuring a multi-talented cast performing music, song and dance.

Ricky Skaggs & Bruce Hornsby
with Kentucky Thunder Fri., Apr. 18 • 7:30pm
Watch the creative sparks fly when these two Grammy Award winners hit the stage together!
Sponsored by:

Rockapella Fri., May 2 • 7:30pm
This a cappella quintet will wow you with their smooth harmonies & inventive choreography!

100 Years of Broadway Fri., May 16 • 7:30pm
Revisit the most memorable moments of Broadway in a wonderful revue of greatest hits, past & present!

Strand-Capitol PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Ticket Center: 717-846-1111
www.strandcapitol.org
50 North George St., York

Christiane David, of Lancaster's Christiane David Gallery, studied under regional art icon Li Hidley for five years. Hidley passed away June of 2003 and left about 400 of his unsold painting to the Art Association of Harrisburg. Many are expressionistic nudes, figures from mythology, and clothed figures as well as some pure abstracts. Some are recognizable as expressionist portraits of models and fellow artists. Hidley is shown here in a portrait by David called "Li the Sharp Tongue." More information on the artist is available at "Hidley Memorial" www.artassocofhbg.com.

Diva Lonnie Gordon Donates Art to Club XS Black & White Benefit

"If no one helps, nothing changes," says Lonnie Gordon, musical diva that charmed revelers at Club XS's 2008 New Year's Eve party. "She incredible," says club manager Charles Oswald, who mentioned the benefit to Gordon in a telephone conversation. "By the end of the conversation she was ready to donate four of her paintings," Oswald says. He is the producer the Black & White Benefit that last year raised $11,200. This year's goal is $32,000 with half benefiting York's Caring & Sharing and half benefiting The AIDS Fund of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Besides a singing career, Gordon operates La Lonnie's Art. Gordon is a gold leaf version of the adage art imitates life. "My art comes from my life. I paint myself," Gordon says. She doesn't mean that she paints her own image. Rather she paints images inspired about her real life experiences. And HIV and AIDS has been part of her life. So have gay men.

(See Lonnie Gordon's art on page 9)

arts & entertainment calendar *Continued*

STRAND-CAPITOL
The Pink Floyd Experience
March 6, 7:30 p.m.
Strand-Capital also presents The Pink Floyd Experience, March 6, 7:30 p.m. Recreating the experience that was Pink Floyd, this experience is not to be missed - a celebration of the music and the stage show that made a Pink Floyd concert an experience to remember!

HARRISBURG SYMPHONY
Masterworks Concert
March 8 & 9
Don't miss HSO's next Masterworks concert "It's All About Rhythm!" when they perform Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccio Espagnol, Percussion Concerto by Higdon, Walton's Partita for Orchestra and La Valse by Ravel. Our featured soloist will be HSO's principal percussionist, Chris Rose.

HERSHEY THEATRE
Comedian Frank Caliendo
March 29, 8:30 p.m.
From the Superbowl to the Hershey Theatre, comedic powerhouse, master impressionist and TV sketch genius Frank Caliendo never fails to entertain audiences. Caliendo is a staple on stage as well as off – performing stand-up on such series as cable's Premium Blend, The Late Show with David Letterman, The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn, The View, The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, and Late Night with Conan O'Brien. His signature John Madden impression is frequently seen on FOX NFL Sunday, The Best Damn Sports Show Period and Mohr Sports. Tickets $50, $42.75, $32.75, $29.75, 717-534-3405; hersheytheatre.com.

Club XS hosted Common Roads' Winter HeART Ball last month following a boffo drag dragappella performance by The Kinsey Sicks at York's Strand-Capital Theatre. Joining partygoers at the ball are, second from left, XS owner Joel Weinstein, and far right, Central Voice publisher and editor Frank Pizzoli. Watch for more photos next issue.

Central PA Happenings

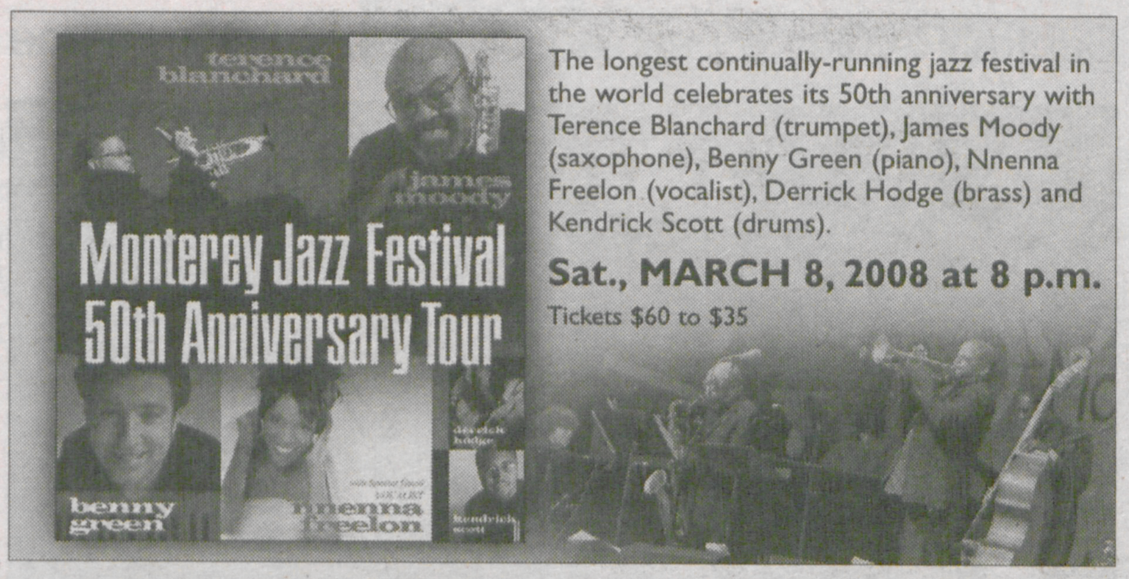
With 250 revelers, Moira Brandt and John Keck were chosen as the King and Queen of Mardi Gras at the Art Association of Harrisburg Bal Masque held last month at Appalachian Brewing Company. Bal Masque, Harrisburg's Mardi Gras since the 1940's, raised more than $20,000 in support of the AAH's education and exhibition programs.

What's Happening in Lancaster

March 7 - Amaryllis at Molly's Pub, 253 East Chestnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, Always a great atmosphere with great jazz selections from Amaryllis.

March 9 - Pennsylvania Music Expo at PA Jaycees Bingo Hall, 2460 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601. The Expo hosted by the Keystone Record Collectors features all types of music (rock, R&B, country, jazz and more) in all types of formats (CD's, records, tapes) at all speeds (33 and a third, 45's, 78's) The expo includes sixty vendors from across the eastern U.S. all in a 6,200 square foot venue. For more information write: Keystone Record Collectors, P.O. Box 1516, Lancaster, PA 17608; call 717-898-1246 or visit: www.recordcollectors.org

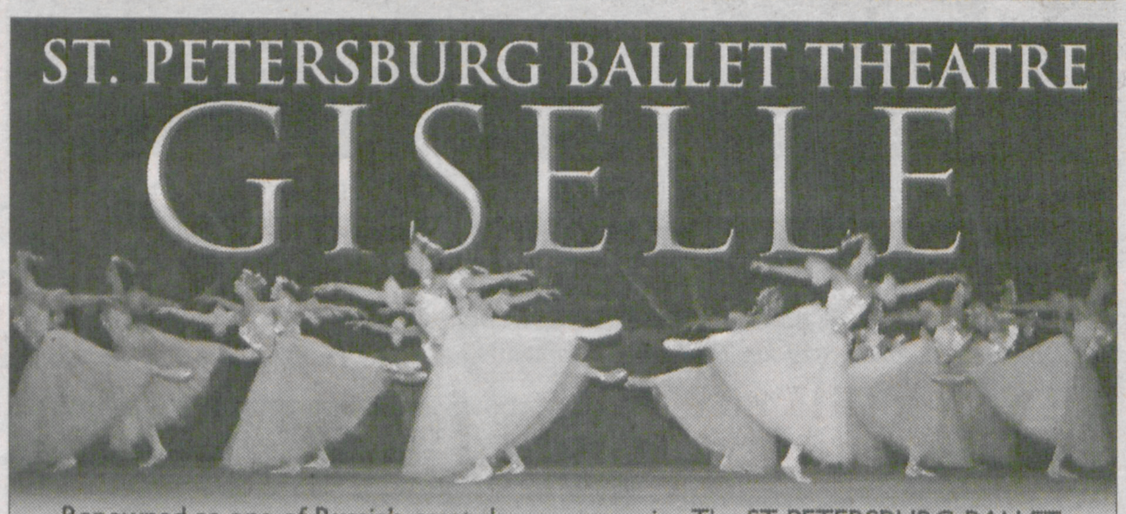
Every Monday - Live 70's Acoustic Night with Keith at 7 pm at Prudhomme's Lost Cajun Kitchen 50 Lancaster Ave., Columbia, PA 17512. Call (717) 684-1706 for more information.



The longest continually-running jazz festival in the world celebrates its 50th anniversary with Terence Blanchard (trumpet), James Moody (saxophone), Benny Green (piano), Nnenna Freelon (vocalist), Derrick Hodge (brass) and Kendrick Scott (drums).

Sat., MARCH 8, 2008 at 8 p.m.

Tickets $60 to $35



Renowned as one of Russia's great dance companies, The ST. PETERSBURG BALLET THEATRE presents the full-length ballet GISELLE, a tale of love, betrayal and forgiveness.

Saturday, APRIL 5, 2008 at 8 p.m.

Tickets $62 to $35

Tickets at HersheyTheatre.com or (717)534-3405

Box Office Open Mon. - Fri. 9 am to 5 pm, Sat. 9 am to 1 pm, Performance Days 9 am to Curtain.

HERSHEY THEATRE

15 East Caracas Avenue, Hershey, PA 17033

2008 Theatre Season Opens March 12

QUEEN OF BINGO
March 12 - April 6
Half the fun of this hilarious show is the audience participation!

RUN FOR YOUR WIFE
April 9 - April 27
A superb farce that will have you "rolling in the aisles with laughter!"

SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN HOMECOMING
April 30 - June 1
The continuing story of the Sanders Family and their Bluegrass Gospel music.

Make your reservations today at (717) 258-3211.
For more informations,
visit our special events page at
www.allenberry.com.

1559 Boiling Springs Rd. Boiling Springs, PA

Allenberry
RESORT INN AND PLAYHOUSE
On the Yellow Breeches

Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

***New Chamber Board Installed** - At it's 1st Annual Meeting, the Central Pennsylvania Gay & Lesbian Chamber installed a new board of directors. Representatives from various economic development organizations also attended. More pictures on Page XX. From left, front row Shannon R. Shupp, Judith L. Chambers, Frank D. Carano, back row David A. Zwifka, Steven P. Miner, David G. Forney, Deborah Bixler, Donald W. Blyler III, Russell A. Boggs. Hershey Entertainment & Resorts was Platinum Sponsor. The Hershey Company was Gold Sponsor.*

***Chamber to Chamber** - Fellow chamber and economic development executives helped celebrate the 1st Annual Meeting of the Central Pennsylvania Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. From left, Edward L. Nielsen, director, Harrisburg City economic development & special projects, Dee Kaplan, deputy secretary of business assistance, PA Dept. of Economic Development, and Dave Black, president, Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC.*

Photos by Kristen Richards, Central Voice

From Interfaith Banquet to Breaking Your Silence

Noa Baum presents "A Land Twice Promised," April 3, 7:00 p.m., Miller Chapel. Admission is free.

This critically-acclaimed one-women show features the personal narratives of Palestinian and Israeli women who live in the Holy Land. Noa Baum has been teaching and performing for audiences of all ages in hundreds of schools, libraries, community centers and congregations since 1982. Born and raised in Israel, living in the US since 1990, she holds an MA in Educational Theater from NYU and BFA in Theater from Tel Aviv University. A recipient of Individual Artist Awards from The MD State Arts Council and The Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County, her audio recording "Far Away And Freedom Rings Alumni & Friends Luncheon, April 26, 1 p.m., A Bucolic Farm in Bethel

The Wheeler Freedom Award will be presented to a member of the local community, and share about the opportunities/concerns of individuals as well as local LGBT organizations. Close To Home" is a Parents' Choice Award Winner.

Interfaith Banquet: Rama Navami, April 14, 6 p.m., Mund College Center

Live music, traditional dancing, a delicious banquet, and a telling of the traditions surrounding the birth of Lord Rama are all part of the celebration of Rama Navami. Sponsored in part by members of Harti Temple, Harrisburg. Admission: $5/Non-LVC student; $12/General, $30 Family with children; LVC students may come for dessert and tea without charge, or may sign up for a full meal for $10 + meal exchange. Call the Office of Religous Life by 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8 to register.

"Breaking the Silence," April 25, 5 p.m., Social Quad, Gazebo

The "Day of Silence" is an annual student-organized day of action to protest the bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students, and their straight a1llies. Students take a day-long vow of silence to symbolically represent the silencing of gay students. The period of silence will end with this "breaking the silence" event in which participating students will gather together and share both about their experiences being silent as well as poetic readings and songs related to issues of importance to the community.

lesbian notions

What We Already Know, What They Need To Learn

BY LIBBY POST

I've always known that we same-sex couples were happier than our opposite-sex counterparts.

Maybe it has something to do with us living up to that "gay" moniker. Maybe it's because we come together with such a strong bond that as couples we can weather the possibility of our family, friends, and neighbors rejecting us. Maybe it's because as youngsters we all played nicely in the sandbox, and as adults we know how to share.

A slew of new studies have come out of late that don't use my precise analytic reasoning, but they do show the brighter side of lesbian and gay male relationships.

Studies done by academics at UC Berkeley, University of Washington, Colorado State University, and Alliant International University in California were reviewed by Robert-Jay Green, Ph.D., executive director of the Rockway Institute, a national center for LGBT research and public policy based at Alliant.

He concludes that there are two key factors that promote healthier lesbian and gay relationships and that even show straights how to do it better.

1. We're flexible about our gender roles. (I might be butch, but I certainly don't mind being a femme in bed and hitting the sheets first.); and 2. We divide parenting and household tasks equally. (My partner Lynn cooks, I do the dishes. She does the laundry, I clean the cat boxes. We both tear our hair out trying to reason with our independent-minded 22-year-old, who has it in his mind that we should go back to the medieval barter system and forgo our present monetary system.)

"It all comes down to greater equality in the relationship," said Green, who is also a nationally recognized researcher in both family issues and LGBT relationships. "Research shows that lesbian and gay couples - by virtue of being composed of two partners of the same gender - have a head start in escaping the traditional gender-role divisions that make for power imbalances and dissatisfaction in many heterosexual relationships."

Over at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, a study comparing same-sex couples with opposite-sex couples was also done. It found that we were similar to straight couples in many ways. All the couples, straight and gay, had positive views of their relationships, but those in more committed relationships (gay or straight) resolved conflict better than straights who were just dating. And, for just a little Sapphic icing on the cake, lesbian couples worked together especially well.

According to the study's lead author, Glenn I. Roisman, Ph.D., same-sex relationships are not "atypical, psychologically immature, or malevolent. Compared with married individuals, committed gay males and lesbians were not less satisfied with their relationships."

OK, so we have a leg up because we gender-flex, don't mind doing tasks that traditionally the other gender might do, and are generally happy in our relationships. We cherish our families just like straights. We want to protect each other. We value our partners.

Using these studies as context for the presidential race, we definitely see our lives being drawn down party lines.

The Democrats, while not quite ready to say "yes" to same-sex marriage, do recognize our relationships, our families, and our children, and want to give us the same protections that they enjoy as married straights.

The Republicans? Well, even Rudy Giuliani (who may not even be in the race by the time you read this) is rolling back on his commitment to LGBT rights and domestic-partner protections.

Tell Mike Huckabee that our relationships are just like his marriage and you'll get the hyperbole of a Southern Baptist minister wrapped in a presidential candidate's rhetoric. They're fighting words to Mike, who has built his political career demonizing us, trashing our relationships, denying our families, and signing legislation that refuses us our rights.

When asked in a recent Beliefnet interview about imposing a biblical interpretation on the U.S. Constitution, Huckabee said, "Well, I don't think that's a radical view, to say we're going to affirm marriage. I think the radical view is to say that we're going to change the definition of marriage so that it can mean two men, two women, a man and three women, a man and a child, a man and an animal."

There you have it - Huckabee thinks our lives and love are the same as polygamy, pedophilia, and bestiality.

Show Mitt Romney these studies, and he'll flip-flop so many times trying to get a positive, negative, and middle-of-the-road take on them that no one will know what he's talking about - which actually just may be his campaign strategy.

These studies show us in a positive light - perhaps, at times, more positive than our straight counterparts. Our candidates and culture can either learn from these findings and better themselves, or they can be threatened by them and try to clamp down on personal freedom even more.

In the end, it all comes down to how well we will all play in the sandbox that is our nation. Will we throw sand at each other for generations to come, or work together to build something new that shows just how loving, committed, and caring we all can be?

Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

United Way

Continued from page 1

112 percent over the past 15 years, and its demographics have become more diverse," said Edwin Nieves, member of UWCR's board of directors, chairman of the organization's Latino Task Force, and human resources director for Nationwide Mutual Insurance. "We wanted to gain an in-depth understanding of the needs and assets in the Latino community to ensure our future plans connect with, and make a positive impact on, Latinos in the Capital Region."

When asked about the current leadership in the Latino community, one in three of the study responders expressed their belief that no individuals or organizations can fully unify the Latino community and speak on its behalf. Lack of formal information sharing was also cited as an issue. In fact, sixty-three percent of responders indicated routinely sharing information using word-of-mouth.

Educational opportunities for youth and improved employment and training programs were identified as significant issues. Education was the most important issue reported by 31.5 percent of survey responders and was second only to employment and training as the most critical issue.

Regarding the issue of safe public housing, 70 percent of Spanish responses said crime was a problem, specifically in their plain view as they entered or left their homes, and 60 percent of English responses ranked public safety as one of their top three issues.

The study also revealed a difference in opinion on the issue of the availability of culturally sensitive services in the Capital Region. What agencies define as culturally sensitive and appropriate are not always the same as the Latino community.

"The Latino community faces similar struggles as other underserved populations in our community, but the struggles are made more challenging because of language and cultural barriers," said Nieves. "The responses show that gainful employment, educational opportunities for children, and raising families in safe neighborhoods are all areas of concern. We can all relate to these issues."

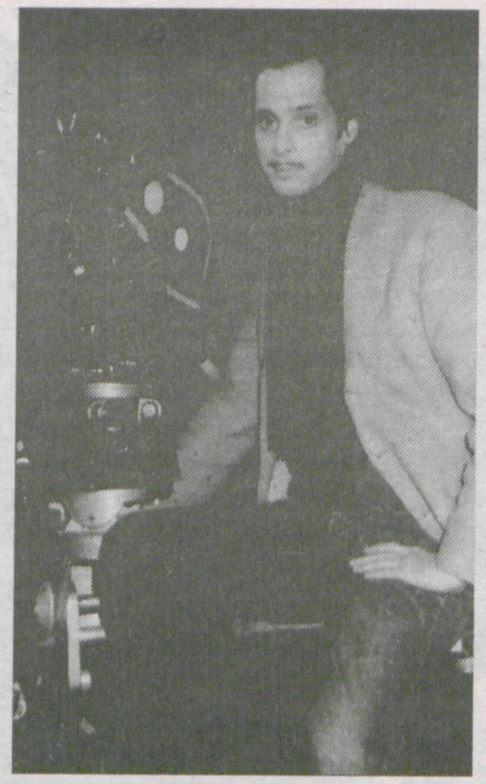
The majority of responders expressed a strong belief in the power of faith and religion. Faith-based organizations were recognized as sustainable resources within the Latino community and as potentials partners in meeting the needs identified in this study.

"The study speaks to our commitment to be accountable to our donors," said Joseph M. Capita, president and CEO of UWCR. "We take our responsibility to be good stewards of community funds seriously. Our decision to discontinue supporting a 30 year partner was difficult, but re-directing our funding to areas of documented need was, we believe, the right thing to do."

"UWCR has a long history of supporting services for Latinos living in Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties," said Michael J. Breslin, chairman of UWCR's board of directors and executive vice president of NHS Human Services. "Our commitment to future programs remains strong. By a unanimous vote, our board recently approved continuing to reserve a small pool of funds specifically for issues identified in this study."

The study, conducted by Rodriguez, O'Neill and Associates in the spring and summer of 2007, utilized an extensive survey to interview 250 Latino adults and youths, both Latino and non-Latino community- and faith-based organizations, and non-Latino program funders. The project was funded largely by UWCR, but financial support was also received from the Dauphin County Commissioners and The Foundation for Enhancing Communities.

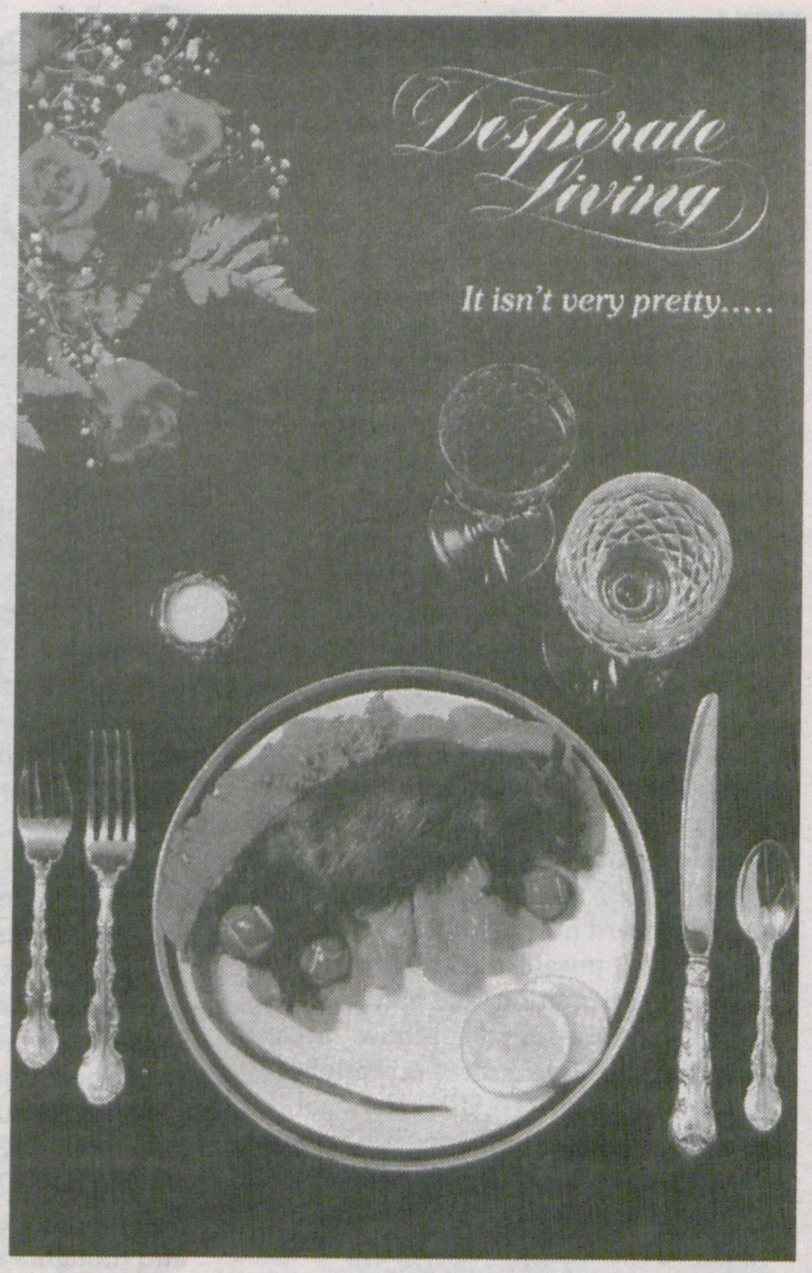
For more information, contact Tim Whelan, MSW, vice president of community impact of UWCR, 717.724.4053, twhelan@uwcr.org.



Read Frank Pizzoli's one-on-one interview with John Waters in next issue of Central Voice.

He's ba-a-ck!

Mark your calendar for May 23-26 for the 10th Annual Patriot News Artsfest Film Festival presented by FilmSpeak.com and Moviate. John Waters makes his second appearance in Harrisburg May 23 at Whitaker Center. Film lovers can see a rare 16mm print of "Desperate Living" May 24. Attending the screening is Mink Stole, Susan Lowe, Vincent Peranio, George Stover, Turkey Joe, and others. Lowe is the film's star and Peranio dreamed up and built the movie's crazy sets. Jean Hill is not attending for health reasons but is sending a letter for public reading.



PA Seeks to Amend Human Relations Act

By Jake Kaskey
Equality Advocates Pennsylvania

Over the past several months, Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, with the help of the Value All Families Coalition and activists across the state, has worked to build momentum to pass glbt non-discrimination legislation in the Pennsylvania legislature. From historic hearings on this bill to activism in every part of the state, there is more momentum and opportunity to pass this important legislation this session than ever before.

House Bill 1400 and Senate Bill 761 was introduced this past spring and would amend to Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination based upon perceived sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in employment, housing, and public accommodations. While fourteen municipalities across the state, including Harrisburg, Lancaster, and York, already protect glbt people against this type of discrimination, nearly eighty percent of Pennsylvania residents are not covered. By passing this important bill, thousands of glbt Pennsylvanians will finally have the necessary protections in the workplace and at home.

The legislation was introduced with a record-number of co-sponsors, 75 in the State House and 22 in the State Senate. After the bill's introduction in the House, State Government Committee Chairwoman Babette Josephs (D-Philadelphia) convened the first-ever public hearings on the issue in Erie, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. These historic hearings brought together supporters of the bill from almost every background, and included testimony in favor of the bill from the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the ACLU of Pennsylvania, the National Center for Transgender Equality, and the Faith Coalition for Pennsylvania Families, among others.

During the public hearing in Philadelphia, polling data was released that shows voters across Pennsylvania overwhelmingly supporting glbt non-discrimination legislation. Seventy-one percent of voters statewide support the current bills. Additionally, eighty-six percent believe there should be workplace equality for glbt people, eighty-four percent supported laws prohibiting LGBT discrimination in housing, and eighty-nine percent favored equal access to public accommodations. No matter where they live or their party registration, age, gender or ideology, a majority of Pennsylvanians support House Bill 1400.

With the momentum building in the State Capitol to pass this important glbt non-discrimination bill, Equality Advocates is working with activists across the state to increase advocacy efforts and speak with their legislators about this important issue. Organizations in central Pennsylvania, such as the Stonewall Democrats, Common Roads, and TransCentral PA, have been working to engage their own supporters in this important effort and asking their legislators to support this bill. As we move forward to bring this legislation to a vote in the State House, activists in central Pennsylvania will play a critical role in the successful passage of the bill. Whether you call your State Representative, send an e-mail, meet in person, or engage your own organization in advocacy efforts, the work that you do to help pass this important bill will have an impact on glbt people all-across the state.

While some in Harrisburg are pro-actively working to pass glbt non-discrimination legislation in the legislature, other law-makers have decided instead to again begin work to introduce a "Marriage Protection Amendment" that would define marriage as solely between one man and one woman, and prohibit civil unions.

A co-sponsor memo went out to State Senators on January 17, and Equality Advocates is working with our allies in the legislature to stop any attempt to write discrimination into our Constitution, and stop any attempt to limit the rights of glbt families.

Obviously there is a lot of glbt issues making news in the Statehouse, and with this increased activity comes the need for increased activism. If you have not yet met with your law-makers about these important bills, please do so. With continued support around these important issues, we will see a stronger and more protected glbt community across the state.

For more information on the proposed "Marriage Protection Amendment" and glbt non-discrimination legislation, please visit http://equalitypa.org. To find out how to become more involved with advocacy efforts around these issues, or to become a volunteer, contact Jake Kaskey either at jkaskey@equalitypa.org or at (215) 731-1447 ext 14.

The Curve Offers Hope & Support

Youth in York County in turmoil over their sexuality have a place to turn. The Curve is open to any youth between 14 and 21, regardless of what school they attend. "Our group can be a safe space for youth who do not have access to a gay/straight alliance at their school or youth who wish to have something more beyond their GSA," says Erica Rich, Planned Parenthood of Central PA.

"Our hope is that as programs like ours and other similar groups become more public, the community will become a safer, more understanding place for our glbt members," Rich says.

Programs like The Curve are important because the majority of students surveyed "heard homophobic remarks frequently, felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation, and had experienced verbal harassment at school," according to the 2005 Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) National School Climate Survey. Many also reported experiencing physical harassment, physical assault and sexual harassment.

Nearly two-thirds (65.4%) of the glbt students surveyed reported feeling unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation, and the average GPA for students who were frequently physically harassed because of their sexual orientation was half a grade lower than that of other students (2.6 versus 3.1).

Children who feel unsafe don't perform up to their potential The report also showed that glbt students that had a gay/straight alliance were less likely to feel unsafe, less likely to miss school, and more likely to feel that they belonged at their school than students in schools with no such clubs.

Survey Shows Need

With a Venture Grant from The York County Community Foundation, organizers surveyed their community. They conducted focus groups, mail surveys, and individual interviews with young people who identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. "It was clear that a group was needed to offer support to young people in the York County area," says Deborah Gable, Planned Parenthood of Central PA. Gable sees the program as a good fit for Planned Parenthood, "because we provide education to everyone so that they can be sexually healthy." Since their first meeting in 2006, the program has had an average of eight youth attend each meeting and as many as 13.

"We talk about relationships, coming out stories, healthy eating (complete with a cooking lesson), safer sex practices, internet safety, bullying, careers and workplace issues, and drug and alcohol awareness, among others," Rich says.

Parents have been supportive. "They are often struggling with their own feelings and thoughts about their child coming out to them, but they believe that our program is a positive place for their child," Gable observes.

The Curve meets every other Thursday, 6:30 - 9 pm, York Planned Parenthood, 728 South Beaver St., York, 845-9683, ext. 235; erica.rich@ppfa.org. Their myspace page is www.myspace.com/glbtyork. The Planned Parenthood website is www.ppcpa.org (go to "Local Education and Training" and then to "Youth Programs in York").

GLBT Youth to Attend Conference

Youth from Common Roads, The Curve, and the GLASS club at William Penn High School will attend the 15th annual True Colors national youth leadership conference March 14-15 at the University of Connecticut. The conference is the nation's largest sex and gender minority youth conference.

"Global Perspective" is the conference ethem with the University of Connecticut's African American; Asian American; Puerto Rican/Latino, International Affairs; Rainbow Center and Women's Cultural Centers hosting activities that feature perspectives on glbt lives and experiences.

According to GLASS club president, Daniella Volker, "The conference is a great tool for lgbtqq youth, as well as a great experience. It helps us to really see it from all perspectives, and is, in my opinion, one of the only places where we can truly be ourselves. I loved it last year. It helped me come out. I recommend it for all glbtqq youth." This is the club's third trip to True Colors.

For Common Roads, this will be the fourth trek to the conference. "Every year our youth return from the conference energized by the excellent workshops and welcoming climate. For many of them, this is the first time they've been exposed to such positive reinforcement. They learn so many things about themselves and meet so many lgbtqq youth from other walks of life - for them, it is a truly transformative experience." says Michelle Simmons, Executive Director.

For the Curve at York's Planned Parenthood, this is the first trip with youth. Program director Debbie Gable, attended the conference last year. "True Colors offers a wonderful opportunity to come together in an environment of acceptance and celebration. The workshops offer an incredible amount of information on important topics like healthy relationships and advocating for your rights. Plus it's a lot of fun!" she says.

All three organizations will sponsor a fundraiser with Isaac's Restaurant and Deli on March 4. They are three locations: Whiteford Rd in York (near the Galleria), White St in West York (off of Carlisle St), and Paxton St in Harrisburg (behind the Bass Pro Shop). All proceeds will go directly to transportation and lodging costs associated with attending the conference. If you miss the community night and would like to contribute, donations will be gladly accepted by Common Roads, 221 N Front St, Hbg, PA 17101 or The Curve, PO Box 1469, York, PA 17405.

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www.1515artexhibition.com

Exhibition Tour Schedule

February 11 - March 16, 2008
WITF, Inc. Public Media Center
4801 Lindle Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111
1.800.366.9483 • www.witf.org

April 4 - May 1, 2008
Art Association of Harrisburg
21 North Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
1.717.236.1432
www.artassocofhbg.com

May 19 - June 27, 2008
Millersville University
Ganser Gallery @ Ganser Library
9 North George Street
Millersville, PA 17551
(717) 871.2186
www.millersville.edu

August - September 2008
Specific dates TBD
HACC - Lebanon Campus
735 Cumberland Street
Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 270-6300 • www.hacc.edu

October 1 - 31, 2008
HACC - Lancaster Campus
East Building - #203
1641 Old Philadelphia Pike
Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 293-5000 • www.hacc.edu

April 30 - May 31, 2009
Equality Forum @
The William Way
Community Center
1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
1.215.732.2220 • www.waygay.org

These locations and dates are subject to change. For up-to-date tour/reception dates & locations please call: 717.920.9534 or visit: www.commonroads.org

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Carlisle Strives to Be Inclusive

In an ongoing effort to to an inclusive community, Carlisle continues with a series of community meetings. One goal of the meetings, sponsored by the Carlisle Inclusive Communities Initiative is to recommend to borough council that it form a human relations commission and add sexual orientation and gender expression to the classes protected against discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodation.

More than a dozen Pennsylvania municipalities have adopted local commissions and have made the additions to the list of protected classes, said the Rev. Duane Fickeisen, a pastor at the Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley in Boiling Springs. Fickeisen chairs the initiative.

Currently, there is no legal protection in Pennsylvania against discrimination on the basis of perceived sexual orientation or sexual expression except in municipalities that have local human relations commissions, Fickeisen said.

The community discussion drew different responses from local faith communities.

Jim Grove said the task force recommendation does not reflect the beliefs of many churches in town, which view homosexuality as a sin. He believes that enacting such an ordinance would "push Christians into the closest" and be an affront of God's law.

In contrast, Carla Pratt, who chairs the initiative's Race Committee which also presented its recommendations, said she is a Christian who first learned bigotry against sexual orientation in church but later made up her mind to accept those who are different after researching and seeking her own direction of faith. Pratt suggested the community form a Christian gay alliance group, which would work to build a dialogue between the two groups. Pratt added she can respect differing views among the churches challenging them to do the same.

Lesbian and African-American Tamara Storey said no one has the right, in Carlisle or anywhere in the United States, to marginalize her because she is a lesbian and an African-American woman. "Me and my partner are valid in this community," she said. Storey described the borough as appearing fine on the surface but having an undercurrent of homophobia.

Shippensburg U. Open & Friendly

Shippensburg University is open and friendly to glbt students, says student Greg Wilson, president of SALE, Students Advocating LGBTA Equality. The original organization, called The Gay/Straight Alliance began on campus in 1992 and eventually evolved into SALE.

Although attendance varies due to study and work commitments, currently there are as many 30 active students meeting weekly.

The university provides financial assistance to the group, as it does to numerous other campus-based groups, through an established campus governance mechanism known as the Student Senate. The organization's mission is simple, but at times difficult to carry out given the misguided notions of the uniformed or those thoughtlessly raised by adults to dislike, even hate, homosexuals. SALE is a group of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and ally individuals who want to educate the campus and surrounding communities.

Members advocate for diversity and open mindedness. They provide opportunities for group interaction.

"We want to abolish myths that perpetuate homophobia and instead bring tolerance, awareness, and acceptance of gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals to our campus," Wilson says. The group is open to all students, regardless of sexual orientation, who share in these goals.

First Saturdays
Art in Carlisle

Art in Carlisle offers its sixth in a continuing series of simultaneous art shows for First Saturdays that opens March 1. The next series features original paintings, drawings, ceramics, jewelry and handmade cards. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for these Saturdays.

"Nested Feathers" at Kim Henson's Fly Away Home, 129 W. High St., Carlisle, 243-4744

"Spring In A Basket" at Downtown Antiques, 152 N. Hanover St., Carlisle, 249-0395

"An Eggciting Spring" at Nancy Stamm's Galleria 210 N. Hanover St. Carlisle 240-0551

"Alchemy of Spring" at Garden Gallery, 10 N. Hanover St., Carlisle, 249-1721

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He would have also arrived stylishly carrying his 6-pack in one of our distinctive neoprene beverage totes.
HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Director Mike Ruiz and RuPaul on the set of Starrbooty.

RuPaul

Continued from page 1

Starrbooty

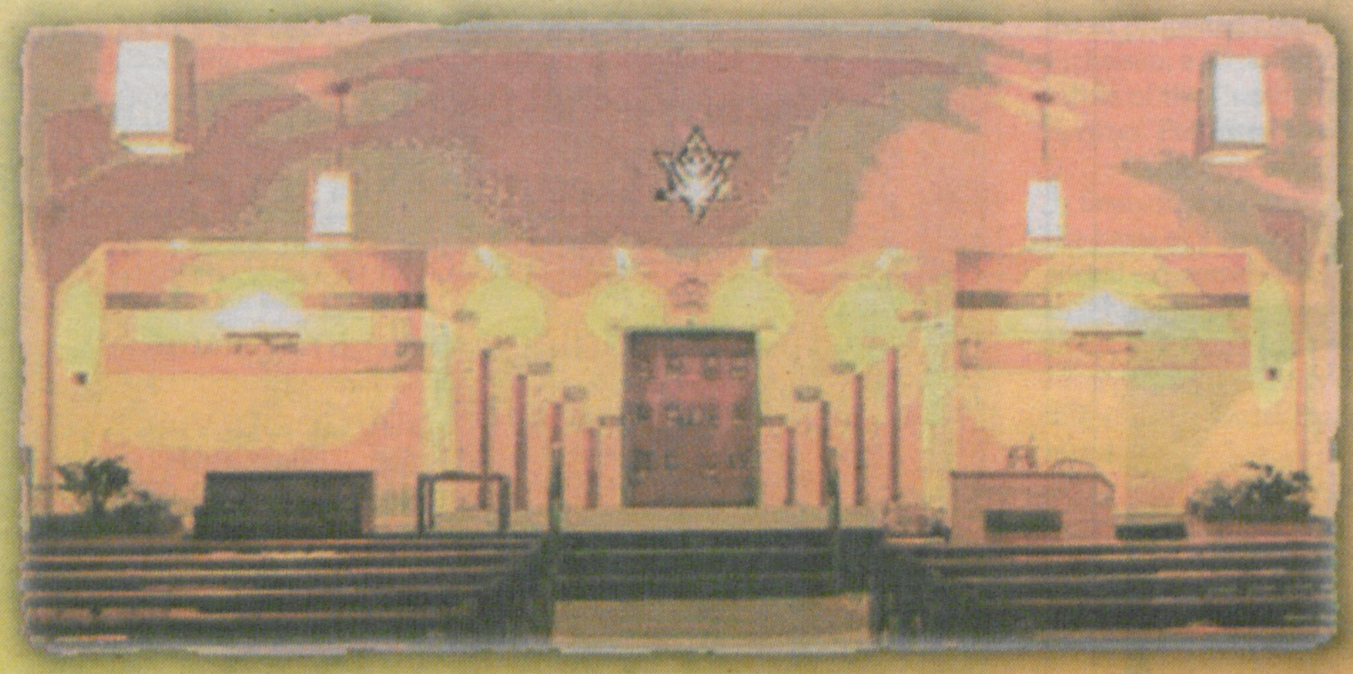
Ru's latest adventure is a 90-minute feature film "Starrbooty," based on her earlier film short series by the same name. "We started the series about 20 years ago in Atlanta, a bunch of fun-living punk kids," she says. Her current film is a spirited goose in the butt to whom Ru calls the "Dream Police."

"We live in a time when fear trumps love. I remember the days when love topped fear," she laments. Watching a 1979 rerun of Soul Train, Ru says "those kids were having so much fun that has been weeded out of our daily lives. The Fun Gestapo runs the show now."

Don't be fooled into thinking she's all gaiety and glitter. Ru has a deeply spiritual center. "We're here with a gift, our human form," she says. She imagines herself, each of us whether we realize it or not, as "observing vessels" through which life flows.

Ru recently appeared in a Vanity Fair photo featuring 10 divas who have promoted MAC products. MAC donates a portion of their cosmetic proceeds to AIDS organizations worldwide. "We were given the privilege of donating $100,000 to charities," Ru explains. She directed $50,000 to LA's Being Alive, a well-known HIV service. "I gave the next $50,000 to a North Carolina program that helps Kenya grandmothers in Kenya who must take care of their grandbabies left behind by parents who have died of AIDS," she says softly, in reverence to their mission.

Ru's appearance in central Pennsylvania will help to raise money for people living with HIV/AIDS. "We all have something to contribute, no matter what it is, money, time, ourselves," she says.



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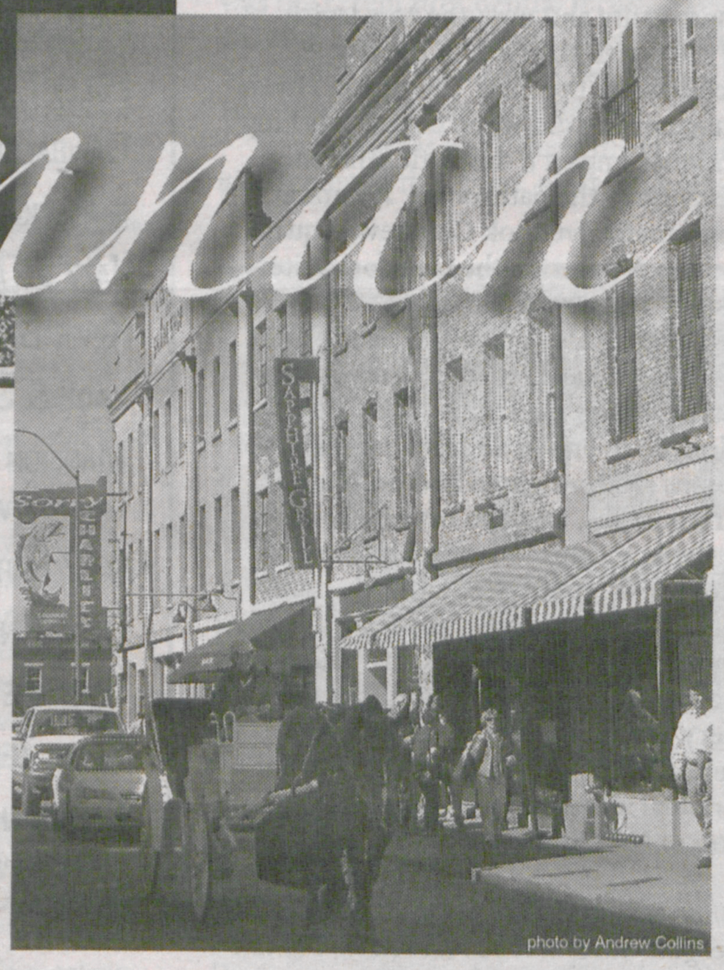

photo by Andrew Collins

Out of Town
by Andrew Collins

After years of lagging behind nearby Charleston in popularity, historic Savannah soared to new heights in the '90s and remains one of the nation's hottest destinations. Much of the city's renaissance had do to with the staggering popularity of John Berendt's best-seller, "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," whose droll yet salacious account of Savannah society propelled the city into a gay hotspot almost overnight.

The jewel of Georgia's lazily enchanting seacoast, Savannah was founded in 1733 by British General James Oglethorpe, who designed the perfect grid of streets and grassy tree-shaded squares for which this city of 130,000 is still famous. Savannah prospered as a silk exporter during its first century, before developing into one of the world's major cotton suppliers. Much of downtown consists of elaborate brick and stucco Victorian buildings built following an 1820 fire that destroyed many of the city's beautiful wood-frame Colonial homes. Had General Sherman not spared Savannah during his notorious and destructive "March to the Sea," most of these Victorian structures would also have been burned.

Begin your explorations of the city inside the restored 1860s rail terminal that houses both the Savannah Visitor Information Center and the Savannah History Museum. This complex is at the southwestern edge of historic downtown. From here it's a short walk north to City Market, a three-block pedestrian mall with a handful of gay-friendly shops and restaurants. Downtown Savannah's shopping scene continues to evolve from traditional to fashion-forward - a Marc by Marc Jacobs flagship store opened here in April 2007, and many contemporary boutiques and art galleries now line the city's oak-shaded streets.

Near City Market, you'll find the gay disco, Club One, which is the performing home of The Lady Chablis, who figured so prominently in The Book, as "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" is commonly referred to by locals. Plenty of folks come to Savannah to seek out the sites that were brought to life in this mesmerizing tale (although it is nonfiction, The Book reads like a delicious novel). Of particular note is the privately owned Mercer House, in which "Midnight's" central figure, antiques dealer Jim Williams, shot and killed his young lover, Danny Hansford, in 1981 (the question of whether Williams fired in self-defense or as a calculated act of murder is debated to this day).

Its literary fame - or notoriety - notwithstanding, Savannah still rivals any Southern destination for its bedazzled and meticulously restored house museums. If you have time for only one, visit the Owens-Thomas House, a splendid 1819 Regency mansion built by renowned British architect William Jay. Nearby is the Isaiah Davenport House, an 1815 Federal beauty. To see a fine collection of classical sculpture and Impressionist painting, visit the Telfair Mansion and Art Museum, a memorable 1818 structure in its own right. In 2006, the museum expanded with the construction of the striking new Jepson Center for the Arts, which added more galleries and exhibition space.

At the north end of the historic district, the city's riverfront is lined with a stately row of restored cotton warehouses - now containing a slew of touristy businesses - and a cobbled lane that's sits a full flight of steps below the rest of the city. The best time to appreciate it and the views of the bridge and freighters chugging along the Savannah River is in the morning, when you'll encounter few crowds. One great way to explore downtown and get some advice on the local gay scene is to take a guided walk with knowledgeable local Jonathan Stalcup, who runs Architectural Tours of Savannah.

For dining, avoid most of the mediocre eateries by the river and stick to one of the several local favorites, virtually all of them gay-friendly. One of the most famous restaurants in the South, Elizabeth on 37th specializes in subtly sublime regional cooking, such as sesame-almond-crusted grouper with peanut sauce; and grilled rack of lamb with corn pudding, stewed okra, and tomatoes. Sexy and sophisticated Sapphire Grill serves some exciting and innovative contemporary American fare - consider the jumbo lump crab cake with lemon curd, green-zebra tomatoes, and red chard.

A bit more affordable, chic Il Pasticcio presents contemporary Northern Italian cuisine - try the grilled gorgonzola-crusted filet mignon with a potato-pancetta gratin. Olde Pink House is one of those Savannah traditions that everybody should experience at least once - fine Continental fare with regional twists, like black grouper stuffed with blue crab and a Vidalia onion sauce, is served. Garibaldi's, in an 1870s firehouse, prepares simple but very good Italian fare, such as pesto shrimp with angel hair pasta. For either lunch or dinner, the trendy City Market Cafe is a dependable choice, serving delicious wild mush-

Continued on page 28

The Little Black Book

See Andrew's top picks on page 28

Savannah

Continued from page 27

room, blue cheese, and prosciutto salad, as well as terrific thin-crust pizzas.

It's touristy, but fans of Food Network TV star Paula Deen won't want to pass up a chance to dine at her downtown Savannah restaurant, The Lady & Sons, known for its down-home Southern cuisine. An elegant basement space with a youthful, see-and-be-seen following, Jazz'd Tapas Bar is perfect for late-night snacking - recommended fare include potato-leek frittata with fig chutney, and citrus-ginger-glazed shrimp-and-scallops skewers. The lesbian-owned Firefly Cafe serves affordable American fare, including plenty of fresh veggie dishes. This dapper spot overlooks Troup Square and is especially popular for brunch (try the Savannah eggs Benedict topped with fresh crab meat). For post-club noshing, check out Sushi Zen, a hip and gay-popular Asian restaurant with a convivial vibe.

The bar staff and regulars in Savannah's bars are friendly and forward. Although some locals shun the touristy and cavernous Club One, it's one of the most impressive clubs in the Southeast, and it can be fun when The Lady Chablis is performing. Other options include Chuck's, a friendly locals joint near the river that draws a mixed bunch; and Blaine's Back Door Bar, a casual cruise and dance lounge that also has a deli serving pretty tasty sandwiches and pizza. Not gay per se, Venus de Milo is a sexy and sophisticated wine bar with a welcoming, bohemian vibe - it's just west of City Market. Down along the riverfront, gay-friendly Kevin Barry's Irish Pub is popular early in the evening for Irish music, food, and drink.

With the recent rise in gay tourism, Savannah's grand old hotels have become increasingly hospitable to visiting same-sex couples. Among the city's many classic luxury inns, the Ballastone Inn is renowned for its gracious hospitality and over-the-top, lavish rooms. The four-story 1838 mansion sits along one of the prettiest streets in the city. A mid-19th-century inn with an expansive landscaped courtyard, the Eliza Thompson House and its grand guest rooms look much as you might imagine they did when cotton was king of Savannah. Original heart-pine floors and period antiques impart a romantic ambience, and yet rooms have comfortable, modern amenities, especially the bathrooms. Rooms at the Foley House Inn contain antiques and Oriental rugs; many overlook Chippewa Square and have massive two-person Jacuzzis. Of affordable chain properties, the Comfort Suites Historic District is clean, pleasantly furnished, and a short walk from City Market.

The only glbt-exclusive B&B in Savannah, 912 Barnard is also one of the least expensive. This dramatic yellow turn-of-the-century house has been handsomely restored to its original splendor, with antiques and authentic colors that convey the ambience of the city. A fully restored 1889 sea captain's house that once belonged to one of Savannah's wealthiest merchants, the Azalea Inn is quite gay-friendly. All rooms are configured and decorated differently, and each has a gas fireplace; two have whirlpool tubs, and two have balconies.

For the most memorable accommodations, however, look to the gay-friendly Mansion on Forsyth Park, which offers some of finest digs in town. This stylish mini-resort beside verdant Forsyth Park contains 126 rooms with smart, contemporary furnishings, plus a top-notch spa, a cooking school, two cool bars, an art gallery, and the highly regarded 700 Drayton Restaurant. Opened in 2005, the hotel offers further evidence of Savannah's gradual shift from a bastion of Old South gentility to a beacon of New South panache and style.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

The Little Black Book

Andrew Collins's insider picks:

Azalea Inn 912-236-2707 or 800-582-3823, www.azaleainn.com

Ballastone Inn (912-236-1484 or 800-822-4553, www.ballastone.com

Blaine's Back Door Bar 912-233-6765, www.blainesbar.com

Chuck's 305 W. River St., 912-232-1005

Cafe at City Market 912-236-7133, www.savannahcitymarket.com/cafe

Club One 912-232-0200, www.clubone-online.com).

Comfort Suites Historic District 912-629-2001, www.comfortsuites.com

Eliza Thompson House 912-236-3620 or 800-348-9378 www.elizathompsonhouse.com

Elizabeth on 37th 912-236-5547, www.elizabethon37th.net

Firefly Cafe 912-234-1971, www.fireflycafega.com)

Foley House Inn (912-232-6622 or 800-647-3708, www.foleyinn.com

Garibaldi's 912-232-7118, www.garibaldisavannah.com

Il Pisticcio 912-231-8888, www.ilpasticciosavannah.com

Jazz'd Tapas Bar 912-236-7777, www.jazzdsavannah.com

Kevin Barry's Irish Pub 912-233-9626, www.kevinbarrys.com

Lady & Sons 912-233-2600, www.ladyandsons.com

Mansion on Forsyth Park 912-238-5158 or 888-711-5114 www.mansiononforsythpark.com

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Sapphire Grill 912-443-9962, www.sapphiregrill.com

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Savannah Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (877/SAVANNAH www.savannahvisit.com). Venus de Milo (912-447-0901)

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Phone: (717)732-0233
Contact: Michael Reed
Email: mreeddesigns@yahoo.com

Harrisburg Gay Men's & Women's Volleyball

3rd and Bridge St. New Cumberland
Phone: 717.233.3172
Contact: Jim
Hours: Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland. Cost: $2.50

Harrisburg Ladies Night Out

PO Box 266, Mechanicsburg
Phone: 717.232.8382
Contact: Judy Chambers
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available

HOWL

HOWL hanging out with lesbians. Group of 140 women.
Contact: Gina Bowers-Miller
Email: howlofpa@yahoo.com
www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.hmtl
Other web address http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howlofpa/ to join

Lambda Car Club Int'l Central PA Region

Organization of GLBT people who are interested in collectable automobiles
3623 Green Street, Harrisburg
Phone: 717.238.9766
Contact: John Ball
Hours: Meet monthly at different members houses
Email: buickbum2@aol.com

Rainbow Pride Rural Project

This project intends to create support for the GLBT community living in rural York, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. It is funded by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and housed within Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located in uptown Harrisburg.
2973 Jefferson St., Harrisburg
Phone: 717-236-7387
Contact: Kevin E. Burrell
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: kevinb2004@msn.com

Students Advocating LGBTA Equality

Group camping open to LGBT people and their friends.
Shippensburg University Cumberland Union Bldg
Box 89, Shippensburg
Phone: 717-477-1616
Contact: Travis Eichelberger
Email: susale@gmail.com
Website: www.ship.edu/~msa/SALE.htm >

Forster

Central Voice Intern Ian Forster Completes LOGO Internship

Ever wonder what a college internship at a hot new glbt channel might be like?

Cedar Cliff High School graduate Ian Forster recently completed an internship with LOGO. A junior at Syracuse University, he is also a Central Voice intern doing reviews and research.

Syracuse is similar to Harrisburg. "There are a few small gay bars, a little gayborhood, and a struggling downtown," Forster says, adding "the university is a huge cultural force and gives the community something Harrisburg lacks."

For his LOGO internship, Forster lived in New York City, which he describes as a completely different experience than both Harrisburg and Syracuse, a whole different mindset. "Gayness is a non-issue and you never run out of things to do." He doesn't remember going to a gay bar during the entire length of his internship, except to attend LOGO-sponsored events. "It wasn't necessary. I went with friends where we thought we'd have fun."

Supportive Parents

With supportive parents at home, Forster has been able to develop many creative interests. "My interests have always been changing. At Cedar Cliff, theater was my big thing," he says. His final work there was directing the classic play "Sorry, Wrong Number" which Forster thinks he and his cast had turned into a "masterpiece."

Regular attendance at independent films at Midtown Cinema sparked Forster's interest in film. "I ended up seeing a movie every weekend for a while and eventually I was hired as a projectionist." His senior year he took his interest in film to the Capital Area School for the Arts, the local arts magnet school.

"At CASA, I was able to create a few films and I realized that I wanted to study film in college. The energy and openness of CASA students was very refreshing compared to the traditional high school experience," he points out. "In high school, everyone is worried about fitting in. The need to conform isn't felt at CASA, which is one of its major draws. People are too focused on being creative to care if you are gay."

"My parents have always been very supportive of me. They go to more gay pride events than I do. I'm lucky to have them. Being raised in the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg was also beneficial. Having a good church and a supportive family helps balance out the rest of the region," he says. "Central Pennsylvania seems like the last place a gay person should live, but with progressive communities like my church this area isn't so bad."

Syracuse Open

"I was surprised when I got to Syracuse University by how open it was. SU was the only school I applied to that wasn't in a major metropolis, so I thought it would be the least gay friendly," Forster says. He found otherwise. "There's a great glbt resource center and the residential staff is well trained on the issues."

SU draws students from all over the country "so there are plenty of close-minded ones but they are in the minority." Forster reports. He recently enrolled in the newly created GLBT Studies minor program. "They are the most interesting and progressive classes and cover everything from cinema studies to glbt issues in architecture."

Experiences outside his home region have helped Forster. "Though I am sentimental for central Pennsylvania, I am glad I was able to get out," he says. "The most educational part about school is meeting new people, something that can't happen if you stay local."

LOGO

At LOGO, Forster was a production intern in the creative department, where he worked three days a week at the Times Square office. The creative department controls "the look" of the channel. "They do this by creating promos that say things like 'coming up next' and by designing online content. They also do celebrity and musician interviews," he says.

To help the producers and editors, Forster screened and logged lots of footage so they knew where the good shots were. "They had me running media all over Manhattan and to the other MTV Networks building as well. One of my more interesting tasks was to research people like Jewel and Wilson Cruz and to write some of their interview questions," Forster says.

Presidential Forum

The pinnacle of Forster's experience was the recent presidential forum. "The channel is only two years old but did huge things like the Presidential Forum on GLBT issues called Visible Vote '08.

During his work there the channel also screened the True Colors Tour which featured Cyndi Lauper, Erasure, Debbie Harry, The Dresden Dolls, and Rosie O'Donnell, among others.

"For both of these events I was able to attend chic parties in their honor. We also created a behind-the-scenes show for the True Colors Tour which gave me my first, albeit small, credit," Forster says. During his last week on the job, Forster assisted with interviews of Debbie Harry and the Denmark duo Junior Senior. For Forster, LOGO was "great because it felt important. It is groundbreaking and glbt people crave content that is relevant to their lives. LOGO strives to be a social conscience and not trashy which is admirable," Forster says.

Examples

One of the best parts about LOGO, Forster says, "was working with so many dedicated and intelligent glbt people. Of course not all staff there is gay but those who are served as great examples to me. I hope to work in the glbt media and be as dedicated to my work as they are."

Forster thinks many gay youth lack that kind of strong role model he has been lucky enough to have at LOGO, as well as in Harrisburg and Syracuse.

Brian Graden championed the ever-expanding Logo—now in over 26 million homes—and serves as its president as well. As president of entertainment for MTV Networks' music channels, Graden oversees the programming on those arbiters of youth culture MTV, CMT, MTV2, and VH1. Since taking the reins at MTV in 1997, MTV has been the number 1 basic-cable network in the advertiser-coveted age 12-24 demographic, and after adding VH1 to his responsibilities in 2002, ratings have risen there an astonishing 95%.

social and recreational organizations:

Susquehanna Club
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: camp@susq.org
Website: www.susq.org

Susquehanna Valley Bears
PO Box 61478 Harrisburg, PA
Contact: John Bowermaster
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: secretarysvbears@yahoo.com or info@svbears.com
Website: www.svbears.com

The Pennsmen, Inc
The Pennsmen, Inc are Central PA's glbt leather/levi/kink social organization. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle.
Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Neptune Lounge @ 3:00pm
PO Box 401, Harrisburg
Phone: 717-232-3785
Contact: Steven James
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org
Website: www.pennsmen.org

The Rainbow Bowling League
The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.
Phone: 763-8444
Contact: Mark or Robert
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

Women's Circle
c/o Bobbi Carmitchell
Locust Lane Music, P.O. Box 8301
Lancaster, Pa 17604
Phone: 717.872.4512
Contact: Bobbi Carmitchell
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: bobbi@womenscircle.org
Website: www.womenscircle.org

Imagine

Continued from page 5

Our rich Pennsylvania history is all about witnessing a problem, bringing together the appropriate leaders, declaring a solution and getting the job done!

In Pennsylvania, we need our local hospitals instantly-exchanging critical patient information, especially our Emergency Departments and public safety organizations, ASAP. Our Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange, (www.pa-hie.org) is bringing together industry leaders to get these life-saving measures timely implemented. Also, we are deploying the largest and best ePrescription deployment in the nation. In the next six months, our PA-HIE will lead efforts to get 1,000 more physicians converted from hand-written prescriptions to ePrescription, saving time, money and lives. Also, our Homeland and Defense Technology efforts, (www.tccpmix.org) will lead efforts to get 5,000 more food producers and sellers, using our leading-edge food system tracking systems. (www.foodcertificates.org).

In 2008, we are going to lead the nation in STEM Internship grants to get more students working in PAID Internships in STEM career pathways. www.techquestpa.com

Simply put; every year Pennsylvania net-imports the most high school graduates of the fifty states then four years later Pennsylvania net-exports the most college graduates. Two years ago Pennsylvania exported 90% of its radiology residents. Imagine.

Imagine our technology deployment success helping thousands pursue life otherwise denied, and saving time, money and lives! Pennsylvania needs to lead!

The You & Me Thing

Imagine there's no magic wand. Imagine the only way these problems will get addressed is for one person to get motivated to get one more person motivated and excited. And through those mutual motivations they get a third, a fourth, a dozen, then hundreds, thousands, millions! Look, I don't know how George Washington motivated thousands of continental troops to stay in the field for seven long years and win our independence. But he did. And, I don't know how Abraham Lincoln held the Union together through the Civil War. But he did. With unbelievable persistence, Bono has a plan to help Africa and its preventable deaths. He deserves every kudo.

In Pennsylvania, we have a plan to get our local hospitals trading critical patient care information and we want to get it done in 2008. Right here, right now. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet are devoting their mega-billions to plans to eradicate polio, malaria, water-borne disease and the other diseases with ready-made solutions. That's incredible.

In Pennsylvania, we have a plan to get ePrescription deployed to every Pennsylvania physician, greatly increasing patient care with a billion dollars of savings. And, we're going to get it done in 2008. Ray and Joan Kroc helped put a McDonalds on every major cross-road.

In Pennsylvania, we have a plan to get our food safety systems deployed in every supermarket, restaurant, food manufacturer, water system and grocery in Pennsylvania by December 31st, 2008. This past Thanksgiving Day, my family and I visited Valley Forge. It was a brisk day, and it made me shed a tear for the thousands of Americans that lived in those small wooden huts in the bitter cold of December, January and February, with barely anything to eat, or warm clothes or shoes on their feet. I imagine everything they suffered for us! Then, especially during the holidays I imagine our troops overseas and everything they suffer for us. When I imagine all these things, it gets me motivated to do more than words. Its gets me beyond, "what we say we are going to do," but to the where, how and when we are going to get good things done. Imagine, you getting involved to work on good deeds, not words.

It's easy to get connected. I mean, imagine having the talent, resources and abilities to connect our local emergency rooms, so when a patient arrives in any Emergency Rooms, all possible medical information is immediately available to the medical staff. You are the client, we have all the tools and we just need the will. Imagine having the technologies right now, to make Pennsylvania lead the world with the most advanced ePrescription system, right here in your communities, helping your parents, your friends, neighbors and your children.

You are the client, we have all the tools, and we just need the will. Imagine having ability to get one laptop computer for every K-12 student with the best professional development for teachers in the nation so our children get the best tools and skills. You are the client, we have all the tools, and we just need the will. Imagine having the resources to deploy the most advanced food safety detection system in every store and food-producer in the state, right here, right now. You are the client, we have all the tools, and we just need the will. Yes it is true, one day I will be silent. Not now.

Kelly Lewis, Esq., is Pennsylvania & CEO of the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania, which operates the Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange (www.pa-hie.org), Military Information Exchange (www.tccpmix.org) and the TechQuest Internship, (www.techquestpa.com). Contact: klewis@tccp.org.

Parade

Continued from page 3

for two years of the Stonewall Democrats.

Judy lives with her partner Laury McIntyre who is active in Womyn's Chorus, Womyn's Circle, and Quest Group, a Unity Church organization.

David Payne has been involved with the region's glbt community since 1985.

He is best known for numerous stage roles, having been involved with Theater Harrisburg, Penn Owl Productions, and Lilly White & Company, and Harrisburg Men's Chorus. He has also served as Pride Parade MC and Voices United Concerts. You may also have heard David's giving radio news and traffic reports for Metro Networks. David has been active with MCC of the Spirit since 1987.

Marlene Kanuck says her work is "many baskets full of exciting events." Marlene has been involved with Common Roads. She became a Silent Witness for 2003 Unity Day when for the film "Jim in Bold" protested by Fred Phelps. Marlene helped Common Roads with the movie "Gay Pioneers" when she had the privilege of escorting Barbara Giitings, the "mother of glbt civil rights" to the event. Along with others, Marlene brought the film "For the Bible Tells Me So" to the region. She also played an acting role in "Finding Home," a play about coming out journeys.

Marlene has worked with the Department of Education Safe Schools and Common Roads from 2003-2006 to train over 600 teachers, guidance counselors, school social workers, nurses, mental health, and drug and alcohol counselors about glbt youth and their at risk issues. She is an advocate for the community with the Lower Susquehanna Synod, urging the assembly not to defrock or discipline gay and lesbian clergy who are in committed relationships. Marlene has served on the board for Women's Circle, and Planned Parenthood where she advocates for Women's Reproductive Rights, and she served on the Fall Achievement Awards committee (FAB) in 2004.

Rev. Eva O'Diam may be known to regular Pride attendees for her performance of same-sex marriage ceremonies as part of the Pride Festival activities. Eva has served as pastor of MCC of the Spirit for the past 16 years, having begun her ministry in the Harrisburg area in 1991. She has been a lecturer and panelist at several local and state colleges and universities on topics about "Homosexuality and the Church." She has also spoken to various churches and denominations including UCC, Lutheran, Brethren Churches on "Homosexuality and the Bible". When not lecturing or performing her pastoral duties, Eva has worked on the LGBT Center Coalition committee and helped with Sharing Our Caring, a ministry to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Greg King was nominated as a grand marshal candidate for his work with Common Roads and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg. At press time, no additional information was available.

Central PA Pride Festival is a non-profit organization operating under The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. All donations to the Pride Festival are tax-deductible.

central VOICE
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Reform

Continued from page 5

to reach out to independent voters or attract voters from the other party. This means that real campaigning for office shifts to primary elections which are usually dominated by the party's most extreme supporters. Those who finally take office are often more immoderate politically and more out of touch with mainstream Pennsylvania. This polarization produces the extreme rhetoric and political squabbling that is suppressing progress in Pennsylvania today.

Unresponsive Representation: Politicians who are assured of re-election stop listening to their constituents. They vote themselves pre-requisites, high salaries, generous healthcare plans, and retirement benefits. Their pensions are four times what they would get in the private sector. And all this is made possible by our tax dollars.

So far, this is what we've gotten for our money:

After a half-decade of intense pressure from government reform advocates, the House and Senate passed a tepid lobbying law that barely addresses the issue of gifts, meals, travel and entertainment received by public officials. Following the money trail doesn't work in Pennsylvania. Lobbyists still don't have to show all they spend to get what they want.

Pennsylvania has one of the worst open records laws in the nation. But after months of debate, action on open records legislation was delayed for "further study." It is to be hoped that something will be passed soon but will it be just better than what we have or the best in the nation?

Other reforms recommended by a legislative reform commission have received little or no attention.

Politicians are not family heirlooms, yet some Pennsylvanians have inherited legislators from their parents' generation. Many incumbents run unopposed and these non-competitive elections frequently happen where district boundaries are drawn to protect the interests of incumbent lawmakers. In the process the primary right to "one person one vote" within a representative democracy is hijacked.

How can gerrymandering be stopped? Two words: Redistricting reform. More than two hundred years of American history has shown that as long as redistricting is left to the discretion of politicians, political parties will continue to gerrymandered Pennsylvania for their own political advantage.

If you care about the shape of representative democracy in Pennsylvania call your State Senators and Representatives today and demand that they work diligently to pass redistricting legislation by June, 2008. If legislation is not passed by June the next 10 years will be a blank check for more of the same.

Bonita C. Hoke is executive director of League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

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